

# Young Negro Writes Novel Full Of Force And Depth

NATIVE SON. By Richard Wright, Harpers. \$2.50.

This book is the first by a negro to be a selection of the Book of the Month Club. It also won its author a Guggenheim Fellowship.

The 31-year-old writer was born on a Mississippi plantation near Natchez. He came to Memphis with his family when he was five, and in 1926 and '27 was employed here as a messenger by the American Optical Company. Since he has lived in Chicago and New York.

His book is receiving wide acclaim. Webster's Dictionary gives the first and true meaning of "terrible" as: Adapted, or likely to excite terror, awe or dread; dreadful; appalling; fearful.

"Native Son" is by this definition a "terrible" book. It passes the question of race relationship through the filter of two murders, a rooftop chase and a trial, and ends still without a clear solution. It is brutal, bloody, battering.

Chief character is Bigger Thomas as a "mean nigger" whose twisted mind reflects his day-by-day life like one of those distorting mirrors that so instantly and grotesquely malign normality. And for that, of course, the mirror is in no way responsible.

Bigger is the product of Chicago's South Side. He is good at petty thieving, would like to be an aviator, has done a reform school sentence, and is not at all sure he will like a \$20 a week chauffeuring job offered him by a relief agency.

But he goes to work. He meets a millionaire's daughter who is in love with a Communist organizer. He meets a millionaire who contributes heavily to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People from profits made by leasing rundown real estate to negroes at high rentals. He meets the Communist organizer who has Bigger sit and eat and drink with him and the millionaire's daughter.

It is interesting that Bigger likes none of these, and that he is most embarrassed and perturbed by the Communist. And it is the actions of the girl and the Communist that lead to one of the foulest killings literature has committed.

Bigger is a murderer; strangely, a murderer without a motive. But now also he is for the first time in his life a personality to himself. Another murder follows, this time of a member of his own race and nothing in view of what he already has done. Then, as a clock ticks unnoticed until its measure takes meaning, the "system" of society moves until it points a finger at Bigger Thomas.

The chase is on. Find Bigger Thomas! All Chicago is aroused

Bigger knows he has no chance. But there is a lure to gambling, even in a rigged game. And he sticks to the end in as exciting a play between the hunted and the hunters as has been offered in words.

Bigger is caught, goes to jail. Then the "red" influence again. This time in a lawyer who really is a kindly, a sincere and an earnest man. His job is hopeless and he knows it. In court he tries to balance the sins of an individual against the acts of society, and so to tip the scale in behalf of the underdog. But the crime of the group is not called crime but law, or custom, or precedent, public opinion and habit; and there is no conviction of civilization by forces upon the earth.

So the law wins; Bigger is sentenced to die in the electric chair. And Bigger really does not know why, except that a man choking will sometimes lash out wildly and drag those nearest to death with him.

Cancer, I believe it is held now, originates in cells in the tissue that suddenly leave normality and begin to grow and multiply without reason until they build death in what was once a well body. It is said, too, that if detected early the cancer can be removed.

Wright's book gives evidence of cancer in our civilization. Whether there will be the intelligence and the will to cut it out remains a question. There is a warning here.

The story sometimes lags with the rumination of the chief character, but on the whole "Native Son" moves swiftly and is good writing. The book will be widely discussed and in some quarters will not be liked. But I think the South will understand it perhaps better than other sections, and that the South will feel it goes a long way to explain its design for living.

JACK LOCKHART.  
Managing Editor  
The Commercial Appeal

## BOOK REVIEWS.

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### TROUBLE IN JULY

New Novel By  
ERSKINE CALDWELL

Author of "Tobacco Road"

Reviewed by FANNY M. BUFORD

Those supercilious southern whites who smarted under the lash of the sheriff, for eleven years, has been incriminating of Mr. Caldwell's earthy TOBACCO ROAD will, no doubt, smart again under his equal scathing, although subtler, new novel TROUBLE IN JULY.

The setting is a small Georgia backwoods town, typical in its dry heat, dusty roads, swampland, and town square. The story concerns itself with a single lynching and the attendant behavior of the crime perpetrators and mobsters. The lynch victim is 18-year-old Sonny Clark, whose character and innocence could not be more movingly portrayed than when he runs wildered into the woods, snuggling a pink-nosed rabbit in his shirt to save his loneliness and fright.

Familiar to us all are the pattern of events incident to Sonny's lynching and the types of characters involved. Knowing this, the author has not cared to repeat in detail the plot of a lynching in a Georgia town, but instead significantly and refreshingly, presents a candid psychological study of the mental distortions of a southern mob and the abnormal rationalizations of spineless petty politicians who juggle principles at a shift of the wind. For the first time we find a white writer actually implying, in print that one of the factors frequently behind the lynching of a Negro is a sense of sexual inferiority among the lynchers.

Characters of the story are drawn in such sharp relief that they appear symbolical. There is the slattern, sex-mad, thirteen-year-old Katy Barlow, with a rank reputation throughout Julie County, who is the alleged rape victim. There is little Mrs. McCurtain, a desiccated and harassed woman, who lives in the interminable anxiety that her sheriff husband will, like his deputies, "lay" with the Negro women kept in jail for that purpose. Un-

compromising and vicious is grass-widow Narcissa Calhoun, frustrated and forty-eight, who with deliberate lies propels the lynching, in order that she might secure names for her petition to send Negroes back to Africa.

The central character is Sheriff McCurtain, grossly fat and mentally torpid, who has clung precariously to the political bandwagon and held his office as sheriff for eleven years. The crisis in his life arrives when Judge Ben Allen, political boss, Calhoun's petition will be killed, the sheriff tries to mobilize his bulbous self for action against the mob. But unaccustomed to difficult situations, he lapses into confusion and hysteria and rattles wildly over the county, not looking for Sonny to save him (the escape mechanism rears its rheumy hind) but for Sam Brinson, a Negro taken hostage by the mob, for whom he has suddenly developed an uncontrolled fondness. The great hurt that clings when one closes the book is that there are Sonny's and Sonny's and Sonny's who will go on dying the ignominious death of martyrs, while those of us "removed" sip our cocktails and smugly drug ourselves with the fatal bromide—"I am not my Brother's Keeper."



There are three ways of considering Richard Wright's "Native Son" (Harpers, New York, \$2.50): as a crime story, as a study in psychology and as a picture of the Negro in America. As a crime story it leaves nothing to be desired in the way of horror, shock, terror and suspense, and as such it may well have ended half way through the book. As a psychological study it leaves something to be desired. It is in many places unconvincing, confusing, and bewildering because, I believe, the author is on less familiar ground than he is when creating plot and suspense. Allowing for Bigger Thomas' limited knowledge and intelligence, for his fear and welter of uncertainties, some of his reactions are still inexplicable except

as a sacrifice to plot. As an indictment of America's treatment of the Negro, as a "J'accuse" of the first order, as a realistic picture of the status of the Negro in our so-called civilization, it is superb, even though it leans unduly to exaggeration. This is understandable and excusable on account of Mr. Wright's youth, his over-seriousness and the lack of that cynical humor which has been the mainstay of *Homo Aframericanus* through the troubled centuries.

### THE STORY

The story unfolds swiftly. Bigger Thomas lives with his mother, brother and sister in one room in the South Side Chicago slums. He runs with a gang of young hoodlums who have been sticking up neighborhood stores. He is forced to accept a job as chauffeur for wealthy Mr. Dalton, a "friend of the Negro" who owns acres of South Side rookeries, or see relief withdrawn from him and his family. So reluctantly he takes the job. Mrs. Dalton is blind. Mary Dalton, the daughter, is a spoiled young lady flirting with the Communist Party and in love with Jan Erlone, one of its organizers. Bigger drives her to a tryst with Jan and she and her lover insist on going to eat and drink on the South Side for Negro atmosphere. They compel Bigger to join them which he reluctantly does. They get drunk and shortly after Jan leaves her, Mary passes out. Bigger carries her to her room. As he places her on her bed, the blind Mrs. Dalton appears in the doorway. To prevent Mary from making a sound, Bigger places a pillow over her face. It suffocates her. Panic-stricken, he carries the body downstairs, burns it in the furnace, cleverly covers his trail and taking the money from her purse, goes to see his girl Bessie and writes a kidnap note demanding \$10,000.

### CAPTURE AND TRIAL

To avoid suspicion and deliver his note he returns to the Dalton house feigning ignorance of Mary's whereabouts. He successfully diverts suspicion to Jan until the sack draught from the uncleaned furnace leads to discovery of the girl's bones. He escapes in the confusion, goes to Bessie's, forces her to accompany him to some abandoned houses. There, fearing

rooftops, he is captured. The rest of the book deals with the inquest, the examination, the trial and the masterly plea of Bigger's Jewish Communist lawyer. This plea to the judge is one of the most eloquent logical and impassioned statements of the Negro's position in America that has ever been made.

#### SUGGESTS DREISER

"Native Son" is similar to but less convincing than Dreiser's "An American Tragedy." There is also something in it of Andre Malraux's intensity and of Dostoevski's psychological probings, but Wright falls short of the Russian's genius perhaps because he lacks objectivity. It is for this latter reason "Native Son" does not rise completely above caricature. For all the author's preoccupation with Bigger Thomas, the Negro youth is not a well-realized character. The others in the cast are even less so, with the exception of Bessie. They are often just names.

Wright is effective in his indictment of America's slave pen. But in his zeal to show the Negro's resentment he is guilty of gross exaggeration, and thus tends to perpetuate the stereotype Negro as long used by Negrophobes to frighten white America. The Negro's fear, suspicion and perturbation amid white civilization is far less than Wright would have us believe. A truer picture of the Negro mind would reveal its amazing resourcefulness and adaptability, its astonishing ingenuity in sublimation, its uncanny facility in finding "outs." Wright's Negroes are caught helplessly in a trap. America's Negroes are resourcefully fighting their way out of a trap. Indeed, the average Negro even refuses to consider that he is in a trap. Thus, we have less here of the Negro mind than the author's mind.

But "Native Son" is a milestone in American literature, for all its imperfections. And while it lacks those qualities that make a great novel, it has all that is needed for a good one.

—George S. Schuyler.

## BOOKS

### GRAPES OF WRATH

Although this picture does not deal with problems of our group as such, it is hard to believe that anyone could fail to see the striking similarity between the plight of the "Okie" and that of thousands of Negroes, who face just such conditions as those exposed in this story.

California's commissioner of housing and immigration says that it is a true picture of conditions at the time the story was written. Most of us were taught to scorn

and despise the strata of society represented in this picture. To us they were dirty poor white trash beneath our notice.

At the same time the so-called poor white trash had the illusion that their white skin was positive proof of their superiority to anybody whose skin was not white.

But it seems that light has broken over both groups. They realize that millions on both sides have common problems which they must work out together by co-operation. They are beginning to realize that neither can rise much higher than the other.

The superiority notion must be tossed out the window. Here may be one severe test of American democracy.

No one can say just how much Grapes of Wrath has done to help the sharecropper, the underprivileged. Pictures come and pictures go—good ones. But Grapes of Wrath is different. It grips you. It shakes you. It haunts you.

Birmingham Ala Age-Herald  
March 29, 1940

## Native Son

BY ROBERT QUILLEN

The brilliant Negro author, Richard Wright, has done a startling and revolutionary thing in his new book, "Native Son." Here, for the first time in the history of literature, a black man reveals the Negro's secret, smoldering, undying hatred for white people.

Slave dealers brought to America a problem that can never be solved. Little honest and sensible effort is made to solve it, for the politician regards the Negro only as a vote that can be won by some kind of bribery, and the idealistic social worker talks about the prejudice and intolerance of white people and is wholly unaware of the hatred in the heart of the Negro.

Despite Author Wright, that hatred is by no means universal. Yet where there is neither hatred nor enmity, there is still, as in all lands shared by two

racism, a clannish exclusiveness that regards white people as outsiders. Negroes stand by their own kind, wherever there is a test of loyalty. And that racial partisanship, which is inborn and instinctive, cannot be changed by law or good intentions. It is here to stay. And any effort to solve the problem is doomed to failure if that fundamental fact is disregarded. You can teach races to be tolerant and friendly, but nothing in human history indicates that you can make them forget they are different. In the old South the two races have reached an understanding that enables them to live together in peace. It is the arrangement familiar to doughboys. The captain, being trained for it, managed the company. He was loyal to his men and went to bat for them when necessary; they depended on him. If the captain was brutal and unfair, he

was hated; if a private was sullen and hateful, he wound up in the guardhouse. If both were decent, close association made them friends.

A common mistake is the belief that a Southern Negro is expected to have a special kind of good manners. Actually the same good manners are expected of a white gentleman or a white lady. A "bad nigger" who is arrogant, sullen, impudent and hateful is hated, but a white prince who behaved the same way would be hated as much by whites and blacks alike.

In other regions, where Negroes are numerous, there is more of the form of equality, but there is less friendship and understanding. It seems a kind of truce—an agreement to disregard one another. And in that atmosphere, suspicion and hate can develop easily and quickly.

The tragic blunder made by our forefathers can never be undone, but good will and understanding can solve some part of the problem we inherited. One thing to be learned is that all persons, regardless of race, gain respect by deserving it—not by demanding it. Even in the South the lazy, illiterate, worthless whites are less respected than good Negroes; and Dr. Carver, the great scientist, is universally respected though born in slavery.

## Beating The Gun

By AL MOSES for ANP

### RICHARD WRIGHT'S BOOK

"Native Son" is a remarkable book from the standpoint of its story and its literary merits in general. Its characters are clearly drawn, like people one has met, here and there, all of one's life; Bigger and Mary and Bessie, Gus and G. H., and the white philanthropist and his wife, and that prosecutor and that detective, and the judge, and that mob.

The personal and social philosophy are not always true; but novels and poetry are allowed to exaggerate and even to mal-form their creations.

But now for one or two of the facts on the other side, as Booker Washington used to say toward the middle of his speech: after he had talked for half hour or so, telling about the faults and failures of the colored people, to the delight of the white people in the audience, and to the amusement of all, even of the Negroes themselves, then he would turn toward the whites and say: "And now, let us look at the white man's side and responsibilities." The whites at this point quieted down from their hilarity, and prepared to "take it," and generally got it.

In the first place (and I'm noissy), Dick Wright's book is just too dirty,—I mean with unnecessary dirt. There is some dirt in human relations, and it is legitimate for the artist to recognize its presence. But there are several bits of dirt in this book which the writer put into it, not because it was dirt. Of course there are many people who love dirt, and who do not object to it anywhere, and that is why some laws have been made; to curb those people's exhibitions, in behalf of the other part of the population which is not so fond of dirt. Manure is as natural a product and substance as the sand of the seashore, but we do not have to recognize manure by setting it forth on our tables, while we eat our dinners. Sex is not to be suppressed, but neither is it to be exhibited. Even the washing of one's teeth or the clipping of his toe-nails can be taken for granted, without annoying the man on the streets with the processes.

The chief good from this book will be the money that the publisher will make, and the smaller amount that Dick Wright will get. The book, at the very least to be said, will do no good, no "net" good. That is, it will do as much harm in some quarters as it may do good in others, to put it most mildly. Sensible white people will say: "Look what brute beast the conditions of the Negro life in America have made out of Bigger Thomas." That is, they will blame the conditions, the cause. But the great majority of white people (like the great majority of any race) are not so sensible, and they will say: "Look what a brute beast this Negro is! See what happens when you try to help one of them." And there are far more white people capable of seeing this latter part of the truth than there are who can delve down to the fundamentals and take hold of the causes. All the philosophical and sophisticated eloquence of this writer will be absolutely lost on this latter, and by far larger group of its non-Negro readers.

But Richard had the right to write his book, just as we have the right to say what we honestly think of it. Many Negro theatrical performances could be put into the same category; offerings to the box office, to the great white prurient PURSE.

## Douglas to Review 'Native Son'

The Professional and Business Men and Women's Club of St. Mark Methodist church, 50th street at Wabash avenue, presents Honorable Paul H. Douglas, member of the faculty of the University of Chicago and alderman of the Fifth Ward, in a Book Review and Forum of the book, "Native Son", by Richard Wright, Wednesday evening, July 24, at 8 p. m.

Music by Modern Troubadours, directed by James Hobert Barr. Attorney Zedrick T. Braden, president; Miss I. A. Lumbar, secretary; Rev. S. H. Sweeney, pastor.

## Richard Wright Replies to Critic in Atlantic Monthly

likes to work with sensitive material."

BOSTON.— (ANP) —In the June Atlantic Monthly, Richard Wright, author of the widely discussed "Native Son" replies to a criticism by David L. Cohn, Southern white critic, in the May issue. Wright's article is entitled "I Bite the Hand that Feeds Me."

The novelist declares:

"The Negro problem is NOT beyond solution... No motive of 'expediency' can compel me to elect to justify the ways of white America to the Negro; rather, my task is to weigh the effects of our civilization upon the personality as it affects it HERE and NOW. In my weighing of those effects, I reveal rot, plus filth, hate, fear, guilt and degenerate forms of life, must I be consigned to hell? Yes, Bigger Thomas hated but he hated because he FEARED. Carefully Mr. Cohn avoided all mention of that fact. Or does Mr. Cohn feel that the 'exquisite, intuitive' treatment of the Negro in America does not inspire fear? I wrote NATIVE SON to show what manner of men and women our society of the majority breeds, and my aim was to depict a character in terms of the living tissue and texture of our daily consciousness. And who is responsible for his feelings, anyway?"

"In Native Son I tried to show that man, bereft of a culture and unanchored by property, can travel but one path if he reacts positively but unthinkingly to the prizes and goals of civilization; and that one path is emotionally blind rebellion. In Native Son I did not defend Bigger's actions; I explained them through depiction....."

"Mr. Cohn wonders why I selected a Negro boy as my protagonist. To any writer of fiction, or anyone acquainted with the creative process, the answer is simple. Youth is the turning point in life, the most sensitive and volatile period, the state that registers most vividly the impressions and experiences of life; and an artist

## Author of "Native Son" Replies To Atlantic Monthly Critic

Journalist Guide is graded for early elementary grades, junior high and senior high schools.

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Association, copies of the teaching unit will be supplied to schools through county and city tuberculosis organizations.

The Christmas Seal this year shows three happy children singing hols, which suggests the topic, "Growing Healthfully." Based on this theme, the teaching unit was prepared by Dr. Mabel E. Rugen, associate professor of physical education at the University of Michigan, and health coordinator at the University High School.

The unit is designed for use by teachers of all grades. It presents basic facts on growth, including topics for class discussion, and suggests a variety of pupil activities on various age levels. The materi-

## WRIGHT HERE; SPEAKS ON SO. SIDE SUNDAY

Richard Wright, noted writer and author of "Native Son", will speak on a program sponsored by the Chicago Pan-Hellenic Council at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 57th street and Prairie avenue, Sunday, July 7, at 3 p. m., it was announced by Attorney Ulysses S. Keys, president of the Council.

Wright, who has just returned to the United States after a trip to Mexico, will speak on "How Bigger Was Born." Bigger Thomas is the main character in "Native Son" that has created much controversy in literary circles. There will be no admission charge to the lecture.

Mr. Wright wrote "Uncle Tom's Children" in 1938 which won for him the five hundred dollar Story Magazine prize. He was the only colored recipient of the 1939 Guggenheim Award in 1939 which was awarded on the strength of the powerful novel, "Native Son" which was published last April.

"Native Son," a Book of the Month Club selection, has exceeded 300,000 copies since publication. Wright will make no other public appearance in Chicago during his brief stay in the city.

### A BOOK REVIEW

#### MORE ABOUT "NATIVE SON"

We were three friends who had met after some eight or ten months. One said to the other: "Everybody else has asked you about it. I might as well ask you what you think of "Native Son?"

"That question was on the tip of my tongue. I was just about to ask you what you thought of that book."

There followed a lengthy discussion of the book on why its probable effect an ultimate worth which reminded me as the third party of Richard Wright's rather lucid account in *The Saturday Review of Literature* June 1, 1940. How Bigger was Born." Some of the answers assigned by Richard Wright to questions raised in the tri-party conversation follow.

There was not just one Bigger, but many of them. Then Wright proceeds to describe five familiar types who end life at the point of a gun, in an insane asylum, or who knows where. Bigger was not always black, he was white, too.

"Why did Bigger revolt? First—he had become estranged from the religion and the folk culture of his race. Second, he was trying to react to and answer the call of the dominant civilization whose glitter came to him through the newspapers, magazines, radios, movies, and the more imposing sight and sound of American life..."

Bigger is a product of a dislocated society.

Wright writes that several things militated against his starting the novel *Native Son*, in spite of his determination to write after *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

a novel that would not bring forth tears, but that would be hard and deep that would have to be faced without the consolation of tears. He wondered what white people would think. So do we all so that some rather shudder as they read. Wright wondered about the Communists reaction which doesn't distrust most of us. Then he wondered about the reaction of Negro doctors, lawyers, school teachers, social workers—the intelligentsia—who "having narrowly escaped the Bigger Thomas reaction pattern themselves—would not relish being reminded of the lowly, shameful depths of life above which they enjoyed their bourgeois lives..."

Society has produced Bigger and some one to describe them.

The murdore novel gives place to the possibly real. "What will be next?"

VIRGINIA SIMMONS.

## Richard Wright's Book

*Call 6/7/40*  
*Handwritten*  
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—William Pickens.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot

June 1, 1940

No Compromise on Negro, Says  
Richard Wright.

Richard Wright's Reply to David L. Cohn.—A few weeks ago I commented here on David L. Cohn's objection to the theme of Richard Wright's novel, "Native Son." In the Atlantic Monthly Mr. Cohn, a Southern author, declared that the Negro problem in the United States is insoluble and that both whites and blacks had better make the best of it. He declared that the whites would never yield social equality to the Negroes. At that time I disagreed with Cohn's point of view, for I consider the forces that are making for the integration of the Negro in American life are stronger than any traditional opinions; in other words, social problems simply won't stay nailed down.

In the June Atlantic Monthly Richard Wright, who is living temporarily in Mexico, replies to the Cohn thesis. He makes a forthright, straightforward reiteration of his claim for complete political rights for his people. "No motive of ex-

pediency," he writes, "can compel me to elect to justify the ways of white America to the Negro; rather, my task is to weigh the effects of our civilization upon the personality, as it affects it here and now. . . . I wrote 'Native Son' to show what manner of men and women our 'society of the majority' breeds, and my aim was to depict a character in terms of the living tissue and texture of daily consciousness."

On the subject of political strategy Wright declares that the Negro will not be so naive as to fight alone. "The Negro in America became politically mature the moment he realized that he could not fight the society of the majority alone and organized the National Negro Congress and threw its weight behind John L. Lewis and the C. I. O. I urge my race to become strong through alliances by joining in common cause with other oppressed groups, workers, sensible Jews, farmers, declassed intellectuals. I urge them to master the techniques of political, social and economic struggle and cast their lot with the millions in the world today who are fighting for freedom crossing national and racial boundaries if necessary."

In describing his portrayal of Bigger Thomas, Richard Wright says that his object was to show a Negro boy who hated the whites because he feared them, but there is no hatred in his book. He also aims to show that the treatment of the Negroes by the whites created the confusion in the actions of the whites that he describes.

### RACIAL HATRED IN FICTION AND FACT

*Star of Zion*  
To many readers of Richard Wright's "Native Son" it has come as a distinct shock that the first really distinguished novel by a Negro

should be marked by implacable racial hatred. Most white Americans like to feel that Negroes conform to the stereotype that has been built up for them throughout the past 300 years,—as a carefree, shiftless people, taking what the "white folk" give them and being happy about it. It is true that many Negroes, just as peasant people of any race, are of that type. It is true also that many more Negroes have adopted that attitude as a means of self-preservation in an environment where a show of independent spirit may bring ser-

ious results. Often, however, the surface protection of meekness and mirth covers a bitterness born of years of injustice and frustration that breaks out now and again in the voice of a "Bigger" Thomas, or finds its outlet in Communist or other radical activities.

This growing trend should be a matter of concern to church people. Due largely to the initial work of the Christian churches, hundreds of thousands of Negroes have secured as good education as have the majority of white people. They have acquired aspirations for the opportunities and privileges of American life. From school and college they come out into a world that does not want them. The struggle to find a place in the world of today is hard enough for any young person; the handicaps of race make it doubly hard. Even when work is found its tenuous hold on security is easily broken. This is shown by what happened just the other day in a metropolitan financial institution where the seven Negro messengers of the concern were all discharged because an influential white man wanted to have his son to learn the business from the ground up, starting as a messenger—and of course he could not be associated with Negroes! Would it be surprising if those seven young men should turn to any group that seems to offer a way out?

Negroes have a strong Christian heritage. The Church has been the center, not only for religious inspiration but for social and cultural life. Its leaders have spoken with the voice of authority. Today Negroes are listening to other voices which speak loudly of the failures of established social institutions, including the Church. Will the churches, white and Negro, make the effort to give convincing leadership against the evils that produce in fiction a "Bigger" Thomas and, in real life, the "Scottsboro boys" and thousands of others who suffer because of race?

## RICHARD WRIGHT EXPLAINS

IN THE CURRENT issue of the Saturday Review of Literature, Richard Wright, author of "Native Son," explains how "Bigger" was born. For the benefit of those who have not read Mr. Wright's latest novel, "Bigger" Thomas is the hero of this book.

Many who have read the book, especially professional and the middle-class folk, object to Mr. Wright drawing his character from the lowest strata of Negro life, and express the fear that the characteristics attributed to "Bigger" Thomas might be considered typical of all Negroes by the whites who read the book.

Mr. Wright sets these fears at rest when, in his article in The Saturday Review of Literature, he explains that to him "Bigger" represents not only the revolt of the disinherited Negroes of the South but also the disinherited of other races as well. In other words, "Bigger" Thomas represents the underprivileged and outcast of all races who cannot find a place for themselves in a land of plenty.

The author states that his principal character is drawn from his own experience and cites five examples of the so-called "bad nigger," as he is known in the South whose life "Bigger" Thomas is patterned after. The white equivalents of "Bigger" are the Dillingers, the Capones and Dutch Schultzes of other races, criminals and gangster leaders who prey on their own race as jackals.

Though these men are criminal types and have criminal tendencies, it is our present society that is responsible for their crimes as much as the individuals themselves. His theory is that if opportunity for work and a fair chance for a honest livelihood were provided for all without the restrictions of racial prejudice and discrimination there would be fewer such criminals.

Undoubtedly this is true but how to provide this utopian society is a problem for which not even Mr. Wright is able to offer a solution.

# 'Native Son' Will Live For Ages, Says Mrs. Hildebrand

## A Review of 'Native Son'

KANSAS CITY, Mo. —

Those hundreds of justly sensitive Negroes who explore the inclusion of anti-Negro propaganda in his story and literature would have been delighted Wednesday afternoon to hear Mrs. A. E. Hildebrand, famed book reviewer, discuss Richard Wright's current best seller, "Native Son."

The fact that Negroes with characters of the Bigger Thomas variety are not in the majority; that Bigger Thomas was a victim of hatreds created by the selfishness of white people; that deliberately placed restrictions, latent and patent, impede the Negro's progress and quell his ambitions; that Negroes are human beings and are capable of making the same response other people make to favorable circumstances—these and other refreshing and salient notions were expressed with candor and conviction by Mrs. Hildebrand.

The reviewer pictured Bigger Thomas as a "problem Negro boy of 20 years," whose mother, sister and brother lived together in one room of a Chicago flat. Following Wright's technique, Mrs. Hildebrand defined the Thomas family's characters by relating their habits and activities. Her interpretation of Bigger's motives, reactions and attitudes was faithfully patterned after Wright's text.

Although Mrs. Hildebrand spent little time on Bigger's butchery and burning of Mary Dalton's body and his murder of his girl friend, Bessie, her review carried as many details—pleasant and unpleasant—as could be crammed into a one-hour review. She attempted neither to extenuate Bigger's misdeeds nor to heap blame upon him. Her analysis seemed to be that of an impartial observer striving to convey to her hearers the same conceptions Wright expressed so vividly in his book.

According to Mrs. Hildebrand, the high points in the book, are (1) the plea of the two lawyers—one for and one against Bigger Thomas, and (2) the revelation of the fact that Bigger was brought to understand people and to cease hating them. She left the implication that minority races are not understood by whites, and that whites should think of others as aspiring to attain the same goals successful whites have attained.

According to Mrs. Hildebrand, "Native Son" is one of the few books that will live in ages to come.

By WILLIAM PICKENS FOR ANP

"NATIVE SON" is a remarkable book, from the standpoint of its story and its clearness and its literary merits in general. Its characters are clearly drawn like people one has met, here and there all of one's life; Bigger, and Jan, and Mary and Bessie, Gus and G. H., and the white "philanthropist" and his wife, and that prosecutor and that detective, and the judge and that mob.

The personal and social philosophy are not always true; but novels and poetry are allowed to exaggerate and even to malform their creations.

But now for one or two of the facts on the other side, as Booker Washington used to say toward the middle of his speech; after he had talked for half hour or so, telling about the faults and failures of the colored people, to the delight of the white people in the audience and to the amazement of all, even of the Negroes themselves, then he would turn toward the whites and say: "And now, let us look at the white man's side and responsibilities." The whites at this point quieted down from their hilarity, and prepared to "take it", and generally got it.

In the first place (and I'm no sissy), Dick Wright's book is just too dirty—I mean with unnecessary dirt. There is some dirt in human relations, and it is legitimate for the artist to recognize its presence. But there are several bits of dirt in this book which the writer put into it, not because it was dirt. Of course there are many people who love dirt, and who do not object to it anywhere and that is why some laws have been made; to curb those people's exhibitions, in behalf of the other part of the population which is not so fond of dirt. Manure is as natural a product and substance as the sand of the seashore, but we do not have to recognize manure by setting it forth on our tables, while we eat our dinners. Sex is not to be suppressed, but neither is it to be exhibited. Even the washing of one's teeth or the clipping of his toe-nails can be taken for granted, without annoy-

ing the man on the streets with the processes.

The chief good from this book will be the money that the publisher will make, and the smaller amount that Dick Wright will get. The book, at the very least to be said, will do no good, no "net" harm in some quarters.

# CHANGE THE WORLD



Still More Reflections  
On Richard Wright's  
Novel, 'Native Son'

By MIKE GOLD

THE question to ask about any novel or drama cannot be: "Is It True?" but rather, "Could It Be True?"

Marvelous journalism, like John Reed's "Ten Days That Shook the World" or Ruth McKenney's more recent "Industrial Valley," occupies a place in literature beside that of the best novels or dramas of our time.

But journalism is a different art medium, than fiction. It must answer the first question, "Is It True?" or it has failed in its chosen medium.

Journalism is like photography, in that it must furnish an exact reproduction of the object. Photographers once went off on a wrong trial and tried to make photographs look like paintings. Today the best of them like Margaret Bourke-White, use their art and imagination, only to deepen and strengthen the reality of their reports. They don't play the old painting tricks, but shoot for exactness, not fuzziness.

The painter chooses painting, instead of photography, because he is at once freed of these esthetic laws of photography. He can invent, improvise, re-arrange reality, he can telescope it backwards and forwards, as in a giant mural that pictures side by side on one canvas all of a nation's heroes and history for 200 years.

Painting, like fiction, has only to be emotionally true. It is an attempt to convey the emotion behind the facts. This is mainly done by focusing almost to the point of distortion on the one emotion that is to be conveyed. It is like a big spotlight thrown on an actor which leaves the rest of his environment in temporary darkness. The spotlight is to make you concentrate on him, force you to forget too many other confusing details.

I throw out these general remarks because I believe them necessary to any further discussion of Richard Wright's novel, "Native Son."

Many more letters arrived this past week, discussing the book. This is grand. It testifies to the vitality and bigness of "Native Son." Lesser books could not arouse such controversy. Nor could a lesser theme arouse it. One thing we must thank Dick Wright's book for is that it is stirring up a national discussion on the tragic status of Negro America.

Any discussion is always in itself a breach in the status quo. How rarely does one read in the white capitalist press any editorial or news item relating to the great daily injustice that is done the Negro.

He is locked up in segregated ghettos. He can't get jobs. His intellectuals are not permitted to practise their professions. He can't vote.

In the South his life is considered less sacred than a pet dog's. Lynching is made a sadist holiday that deepens the degeneracy of Southern cities and villages. The President of the United States dares not speak out against lynching. The Congress refuses to pass any anti-lynching law.

Fifteen million Americans, born here under a constitution that makes every "native son" a full partner in the democracy, are daily robbed, beaten, flouted, cheated, slandered, murdered and generally treated with the same sort of horrible race-hate that Hitler and all his Storm Troopers must yet pay for on the revolutionary guillotine of the German folk. It was Birmingham that taught Berlin.

And it has been going on for more than a hundred years, this national horror whose entire mechanics were taken over by Hitler.

But our American press rarely utters a word about this great evil in our own front-yard. The great crime of Negro oppression is taken for granted. It is not a major political issue. They ignore it. They accept it as final. You are called a Communist and breaker of the peace if you bring it up.

They are even honestly surprised that you get indignant about the matter. Devout Nazis express the same naive surprise: Hasn't Hitler brought Germany imperial greatness? Why should anyone bother about a little issue like the Jews? That concerns only Jews.

For hundreds of years, your average Britisher has been just as annoyed and surprised when anyone brought the Hindus or the Irish to his attention. "The Irish are only madmen, the Hindus are disunited, backward heathen," were ever his cheap, smug, ignorant and self-deluding answer.

So it is plain that to force a discussion of Negro wrongs on America is like forcing a discussion of the Jewish problem in Nazi Germany, or of India in England. It is in itself a step forward, a break in the huge wall of chauvinist complacency. It forces a re-examination of the national conscience. It teaches many who had never known what a volcano of injustice and horror their little comfortable lives had been built on, and perhaps even make them fearful enough to do something at last.

But only a strong book can effect such a break-through in the criminal conspiracy of silence. Only great art can do it.

Which brings us back, rather belatedly, to my opening paragraphs. Dick Wright's book could not have accomplished its revolutionary miracle if he had not had his mastery of the art form in which he was working.

There have been quite a number of novels about Negro life; none has had this overwhelming effect. It only was the same subject matter; but victory came only when the matter attained some supreme form.

But where precisely does Wright's esthetic mastery of form lie? I believe it lies in the exact spot where some of the critics have chosen to direct their fire—in his intensive use of the fictional spotlight.

He has written a psychological melodrama in which, for the sake of unity and movement, he has allowed not a word of extraneous detail to enter.

His spotlight has blacked out the rest of the world, and illuminated with an almost unbearable blaze a Negro slum boy, and his struggle against the nightmare world of whites.

The critics believe that Wright should have included Negro Communists, militant and intellectual Negroes. But that is a completely other story, big enough for another book. It might have drawn attention away from the story Wright started to tell—the story of the Biggers.

Do they exist? Yes, they do. Are the Negro people all fully awakened, militant and self-conscious? No, alas, they are not; anymore than white Americans. There is only a minority who have begun to think politically and socially; and a smaller minority are Communists. Same as the whites. This is the fact: and this is still the problem. And you

don't solve it by some novel that makes it look easy; this is Communist escapism, of which we also have our share.

No, the Biggers must be faced, understood, and answered, just as Gorky was not afraid to describe the backwardness of the Russian peasants and workers. That is art; and it is also science and revolution.

And I still cannot understand how any reader misses the heroic character of the Communist lawyer in Wright's book. He is a sufficiently positive hero to offset the negative aspects; and he occupies at least a third of the book.

The Birmingham Public Library has banned Wright's book. Other southern critics have spoken of it harshly. A few southern newspapers have praised it, however; the line follows the general attitude of liberalism or reaction on the Negro question. Every such book is bound to be hated, misused and misunderstood; but its deep lessons have begun and will continue.

## Ben Davis to Lead Discussion On 'Native Son'

In view of the wide discussion and many controversial ideas expressed regarding Richard Wright's novel "Native Son," the Workers School is organizing a discussion on the book to take place at the Workers School, 35 East 12 St. on Saturday, May 11, at 2:30 P. M.

Ben Davis, of the editorial board of the Daily Worker and author of the extensive and detailed review of "Native Son" which appeared recently in the Sunday Worker, will lead the discussion. Oakley Johnson, teacher of the temporary Literature at the Workers School, will act as chairman.

There will be ample time for discussion and expression of viewpoints from the floor. Preparations are being made to accommodate the capacity crowd which is expected to attend. Admission will be 25 cents.



# RICHARD WRIGHT'S BOOK *Plains Dealer*

By Dean William Pickens for ANP

6/17/48  
*Kansas City Times*  
"NATIVE SON" is a remarkable book, from the standpoint of its story and its clearness and its literary merits in general. Its characters are clearly drawn, like people one has met, here and there, all of one life; Bigger and Jan and Mary and Bessie, Gus and G.H., and the white "philanthropist" and his wife, and that prosecutor and that detective, and the judge and that mob.

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The chief good from this book will be the money that the publisher will make, and the smaller amount that Dick Wright will get. The book, at the very least to be said will do no good, no "net" good. That is, it will do as much harm in some quarters

as it may do good in others, to put it most mildly. Sensible white people will say: "Look what a brute beast the CONDITIONS of Negro life in America have made out of Bigger Thomas!" That is, they will blame the conditions, the cause. But the great majority of white people (like the great majority of any race) are not so sensible, and they will say: "Look what a brute beast this Negro is! See what happens when you try to help one of them!" And there are far more white people capable of seeing this latter PART OF the truth than there are who can delve down to the fundamentals and take hold of the causes. All the philosophical and sophistical eloquence of this writer will be absolutely lost on this latter, and by far larger, group of its non-Negro readers.

But Richard had the right to write his book, just as we have the right to say what we honestly think of it. Many Negro theatrical performers could be put into the same category, offerings to the box office, to the great white prurient PURSE.

## "TROUBLE IN JULY"

ERSKINE CALDWELL, the author of "Tobacco Road," has written a new novel of the poor whites of Georgia, which has for its central theme a lynching bee, and which tells the story of the lynching of a Negro youth who is later proved innocent of the charge for which he paid with his life. The book is called "Trouble in July," and while it has been given scant attention by the major critics, it should be of special interest to the Negro at this time because it sets forth the case against lynching more forcefully and yet in a more readable form than anything we have yet seen.

The author is a master at depicting the life and underlying psychology of the poor whites of his native state, going so far as to reproduce the colorful and sometimes lurid language of the "cracker." In "Trouble in July," the central character of the book is an indolent county sheriff who, when faced with a crisis, would prefer to go fishing than to take a stand. With a primary election in the offing he is faced with the dilemma of arresting and protecting a Negro charged with rape as prescribed in his oath of office, or of closing his eyes and allowing a mob of poor whites to seize the Negro before he can get him into a place of safety.

Jeff McCurtain, the sheriff, dodges his duty

and in the end the mob get their man but as they string him up, his alleged victim rushes to the scene and admits that she had lied—that she was forced to accuse the Negro youth by a designing older woman. The climax of the story is reached when the mob turns on the girl and stone her to death. All the naked brutality and fury of the mob is portrayed in the story which implies that, to the local law enforcement officers of the South, the protection of the life of a Negro is first a political problem and in sections where the ignorant tenant-farmer and factory hands live these officials will not dare go against local sentiment, lest it react against their own political fortunes.

The daily press announced last week that there hadn't been a single lynching in the South during the past year ending Wednesday, May 8, and some of the papers used this fact to prove that a federal anti-lynching bill was therefore unnecessary. To our way of thinking, the same fact could be used to break down the Southern opposition to a federal anti-lynching law. If the South has by voluntary cooperation wiped out lynching as the figures would seem to indicate, why should there still be so much opposition to this federal law? For surely they must realize that the law will not affect a community unless a lynching occurs therein.

"Trouble in July" shows that lynching is due primarily to a desire of the ignorant whites to show a superiority over their Negro neighbors and keep them in subjugation by intimidation. As much as we would like to rejoice over the cessation of lynching during the past 12 months we cannot but feel that it is but a temporary halt that will break out again as soon as Congress adjourns and the threat of a federal anti-lynching bill is removed.

The real cure for the problem lies in education, which requires time. But in the meantime, the federal government should make sure that all citizens are assured equal protection of life and property. This can be done only through the exercise of police powers in those communities where public sentiment is still in favor of lynching.

## RACE PROBLEM- 1940 BOOK REVIEW

### Banning Books Indirectly

Many a time *The News* has protested against literary censorship, here at home or elsewhere. Naturally, we have been much concerned about the accusations made recently that the Birmingham Public Library has banned certain books. Several letters have been published in our "Voice of the People" column criticizing the library for its policy in selecting books—a policy under which last year the library refrained from buying so renowned a best-seller as John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*, and more recently another famous best-seller, Richard Wright's *Native Son*.

At the outset of the discussion *The News* heard an explanation of the library's policy which, at first blush, seemed fairly plausible. It was, with reference to the Steinbeck novel, that the library had not banned the book, but that the funds for purchasing new books are so limited that only a dozen or so can be bought each month, and *Grapes of Wrath* did not happen to be among those selected in any month. As evidence, moreover, that the library was not banning the book, the fact was cited that a copy had been donated to the institution and placed on its shelves.

The same thing, it seems, has happened with respect to Richard Wright's book. The library has not included *Native Son* among its limited purchases; but Miss Lila May Chapman, the librarian, has been quoted as saying that a donated copy of this book would be welcomed.

In these circumstances, it is not quite correct, certainly, to say that the books have actually been banned. For *Grapes of Wrath* can be found on the library's shelves and is available to readers, and soon, if it has not been done already, somebody or other will donate a copy of *Native Son*, so that it will be available to library members.

Nevertheless, after inquiry into this situation, we cannot help concluding that this policy amounts to indirect censorship of library books. Surely a book as sensation-ally successful and as significant as *Grapes of Wrath* should have been acquired by the Birmingham Public Library long before it was, and without waiting for some gener-

ous-spirited citizen to donate a copy. The same thing is true of *Native Son*. The library subject, the first one in defense of the ex-rian's explanation does not excuse, even if it explains.

When many books are published, and the library can buy only a small number of them, it is difficult to lay down rules to govern their selection. But the library should make it a rule to give preference to books which, like both of those in question, arouse such interest that they are among the most talked of books of the day.

The library not only should not ban books; it should be careful to keep itself above the suspicion of banning books by indirection.

This is important for more reasons than one. First of all, it is essential to intellectual freedom. There cannot be the fullest intellectual freedom in a community where literary censorship is practiced by the library.

Again, it is important to the good name of the community. It does not take long for a city to get an unfavorable reputation as a result of literary censorship—a reputation for being narrow-minded and unenlightened. Word of such a thing gets about quickly.

Already, for instance, word of this situation in Birmingham is spreading. In an important North Carolina newspaper, *The Raleigh News and Observer*, we find an excellent editorial on the subject. Captioned "Throwing No Stone," it says:

A lady in Birmingham, Ala., has written the editor of *The News and Observer* the sad and silly fact that the Birmingham Public Library has within the year just behind us barred from its shelves both John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* and Richard Wright's *Native Son*. Both are important books, each with serious stuff in them for Southerners in particular. Both should be in any Southern library pretending to meet the contemporary intellectual needs of serious Southern readers. But the idea of the Birmingham lady that enlightenment might be served in Alabama by an editorial in North Carolina on this subject was conceived in a lack of information. During the lifetime of Thomas Wolfe his books were barred from the library of his home city in North Carolina.

All Southern states and some others have yet to learn that significant books cannot be stifled by self-righteous book selectors. But Southern libraries can be made less useful by the closing of their doors against books of importance because they do not conform to the ideas—if any—of those in charge of them.

Incidentally, among the letters written to

the "Voice of the People" column on this subject, the first one in defense of the exclusion of *Native Son* from the library's purchases appears on this page. The writer objects to the "filth" in such books as *Grapes of Wrath* and *Native Son*. He says: "I suggest that Miss Chapman secure these books and offer them to patrons with an agreement attached that they are to be read aloud in the presence of the family, including children in their late teens."

We hold no brief for what this correspondent calls "filth." We do want to point out to him, however, that in Shakespeare and the Bible—to mention only two standard works found in every library—there are many passages which would hardly be suitable for reading aloud to such a group as he proposes.

# NEGROES HAVE NO STAKE IN THIS WAR, WRIGHT SAY

By Angelo Herndon

HAS BITTER MEMORIES

for democracy!

Richard Wright, author of "Uncle Tom's Children," and outstanding young Negro literary figure, declared yesterday that the Finnish situation is being used by the big imperialist powers as a smoke screen for involving the whole world in war.

Wright is one of numerous noted literary and cultural figures opposing aid to Finland. Others have included the distinguished Negro actor-singer Paul Roberson, Will Geer, famous actor and others.

"England and France," Wright said, "who oppress more people than all the other imperialist powers of the world, have been for the last 20 years financing and building fortifications in Finland with the ultimate objective of using Finland against Russia."

Discussing the independence which the Soviet government granted Finland in 1917, the famous Negro author, a native of Mississippi and winner of a Guggenheim scholarship and of a WPA short story contest, said:

"It is unfortunate that there still are some people who do not realize that the Soviet-German pact threw panic and fear into the British and French ruling circles and upset the balance of power. What the pact really meant was that peaceful relations between Germany and the Soviet Union struck a blow against the imperialist war intrigues of Chamberlain on the continent."

## PACT STEP TO PEACE

"I think the Soviet-German pact is a great step toward peace. Only enemies of peace and Russia can see it is anything else."

Wright has no illusions about the sudden switch of President Roosevelt from the New Deal to an active policy of war and hunger.

Wright expressed great disappointment over the fact that many so-called liberals who are supposed to have minds of their own, are becoming dupes and suckers of the Hoover-sponsored aid to Mannerheim campaign.

"The presumption that 'poor little Finland' needs American aid is simply Hoover's traditional way of offering himself as a tool of Wall Street and political reaction."

"If Hoover has the first spark of humanitarian feeling, it would be very simple if he would use some of it by turning his attention to the plight of Negroes, the youth, migratory workers and the working folk of city and country who are trying to maintain a decent standard of living in our own so-called democracy!"



RICHARD WRIGHT

living in our own so-called democracy."

Wright remembers the last World War and the role of hundreds of thousands of Negroes who laid down their lives for something which turned out to be a fraud. To the Negro masses into close collaboration with white workers and memory.

"But," he points out, "there are certain wars in which Negroes have fought and should fight—wars for democracy and freedom. Negroes fought heroically in America's Revolutionary War against English rule and they were justified in doing so, for that war was a war for democracy and independence. They fought with the union forces against the slaveholding Confederacy for free-social oppression and other barriers to citizenship rights. Again, they took up arms in the first World War under the smokescreen slogan of making the 'world safe

genius of his people. Always modest and congenial, he represents in the literary field as well as outside of it, the new forward strides of the Negro.

HAS NEW BOOK COMING OUT

His new book "Native Son," which will appear March 1 as a selection by the Book of the Month Club, deals with the disastrous and tragic consequences of residential segregation.

Commenting on the book, Wright said: "it is not a sentimental picture of Negro life. It accounts for human behavior and personality in terms of environmental factors."

Wright is at present working on another book and expects to have it finished soon. Occasionally he takes a trip to the city from his work in the country and actively supports the fight for Negro rights and working-class activities.

## WHEN THIEVES FALL OUT

Wright does not share the opinion that it is necessary for one or the other side of the warring imperialist powers to win the war. He believes it is a war between two have fallen out and with their imperialist quarrel blood of the common people.

Warning against leaping ways rush to jump aboard a boat comes along, Wright

"The masses of people should be ever watchful guard. They should watch the moves of their leaders make them feel that stake in the present."

## THE NEGROES' TASK

That the Negro has no stake in this war is borne out by the fact that England and France oppress more Negroes and colonial peoples than all the Empires of the world combined. This war is not to free or protect the interest of small states, but to protect the vast colonial holdings of the imperialist powers."

Negro intellectuals, he said, have

a definite and heavy responsibility in the present confused situation.

"They should propound to white America the causes of the Negro's plight; they should seek to steer the Negro masses into close collaboration with white workers and genuine progressives in the fight against war. In these confusing times the role of every true Negro intellectual in America should be that of an instrument of clarification for the Negro masses."

With great intellectual tenacity and a lucid literary style of writing, which few writers of the present have accomplished against a background of jim crowism, racial and social oppression and other barriers to citizenship rights. Again, Richard Wright's literary achievements here reflected the cultural slogan of making the 'world safe

## IMMIGRATION LAW PROTEST BRINGS REPLY

White Americans Can  
Not Influence Trend of  
National Feeling

OCT 19 1940

NEW YORK.—The Council for Pan American Democracy this week released an official statement from the Mexican government and a public pronouncement by the Lawyers guild of the Cardenas administration concerning alleged discrimination in the immigration laws of Mexico against American Race citizens.

Both the statement and the pronouncement came in reply to several complaints made to the Council for Pan American Democracy by the National Negro Congress, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the National Bar association of the United States, to the effect that certain consular representatives of Mexico in the United States were showing a discriminatory attitude toward American Race members desiring to visit Mexico.

This is exemplified by a communication sent July 13, 1940 to Atty. Sydney I. Redmond, president of the National Bar association, by Senor Raul G. Dominguez, Mexican consul in St. Louis, in which he stated that "Negroes are included in a group of persons all of whom must apply for their permits directly to the Mexican Ministry of the Interior."

In denying existence of any discrimination in the immigration laws of Mexico, the Mexican government instructed its consular representatives in the U.S. that "whenever people of the said citizenship and race desire to enter our national territory as tourists, our consulates must grant them the necessary permits." Direct application to the ministry of the Interior, the statement said, is ne-

cessary only in those cases in which American citizens, whether Negro or white, desire to enter Mexico as immigrants.

The Lawyers guild of the P.R.M., in its pronouncement similarly states that "there exists no clause in the immigration laws of Mexico which places limitations of entrance into Mexico on individuals of the Negro race, unless it be those for reasons other than race or color."

In condemning the "inefficiency" of certain Mexican immigration officials who have discriminated against Race people, the pronouncement suggests that their attitude may be the result of pressure on the part of white U.S. tourists, the Lawyers guild of Mexico charges, are exporting jim-crow methods into Mexico.

The pronouncement further calls attention to the "intense racial admixture of Indians, Negroes and whites" in Mexico, and to the fact that representatives of all these groups have been in some of the most outstanding stations in the Mexican government. "Thus, we have had in the highest official position of the republic a Negro, like President Vicente Guerrero; an Indian, like President Benito Juarez; an European white, like Sebastian Tejada or Agustin de Iturbide," the reply said.

In releasing the statement of the Council for Pan American Democracy at a meeting of representatives of the Council for Pan American Democracy and Negro and Latin American leaders, Prof. Ruth Benedict, Columbia university anthropologist, and executive committee member of the Council, declared:

"The Mexican government, in repudiating discrimination by some of its U.S. consuls in the matter of permits to American citizens of the Negro race who wish to visit Mexico, has only continued its explicit and honorable policy of 'no discrimination based on race.' We, too, in America have the words in our Constitution, but so far as the Negroes are concerned, we have hardly even given lip-service to our Constitution."

## MEXICO DENIES BARS AGAINST RACE TOURISTS

OCT 19 1940

NEW YORK, Oct. 17.—In a communication recalling Mexico's pioneer Negro president, Vincente Guerrero, the Mexican Government has formally denied that there are any special restrictions against Negroes from the United States entering Mexico that do not apply to all Americans alike.

The Mexican Government's statement on Negro immigration was written to the Council for Pan American Democracy of this city. It followed protests which had been made by the National Negro Congress, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National Bar Association to the effect that certain consular representatives of Mexico in the United States were showing a discriminatory attitude toward American Negroes desiring to visit Mexico.

In denying the existence of any discrimination against Negroes in the immigration laws of Mexico, the Mexican Government instructs its consular representatives in the United States that "whenever people of the said citizenship and race desire to enter our national territory as tourists, our consulates must grant them the necessary permits."

Direct application to the Mexican Minister of the Interior, the statement adds, is necessary only in those cases in which American citizens—whether Negro or white—desire to enter Mexico as immigrants.

OCT 19 1940  
In a comment on the Mexican Government's statement, the Lawyers' Guild of Mexico remarked:

"Our country is formed by the most intense racial admixture of Indians, Negroes and whites.

"There have been representatives of all these groups in the most outstanding sectors of the Mexican population.

"Thus we have had in the highest official position of the Republic a Negro like President Vincente Guerrero, a full-blooded Indian like President Benito Juarez, and an European white, like Sebastian Lorde de Tejada.

"This has been the ethnic history of Mexico. And we believe that it is of fundamental importance that, together with our friends in the United States, we all work to preserve this magnificent tradition of Mexican humanism, void of all race prejudice."

# Canadians Crack Down On U. S. Jim Crow

DEC 28 1940

TORONTO, Can. — (ANP)

—That the U. S. Negro problem, with all its overt and hidden manifestations, has been transplanted and rooted deeply into the social, economic and commercial life of Canada's provinces, was revealed here this week when it was learned that many prominent whites—liberal in their thought and action—have determined to stem this un-democratic trend that makes economic vassals and slaves of free men and women.

Credit for disclosing the economic "frame-up" against Negroes goes to Mrs. Viola W. Carter, prominent social service worker of Toronto and executive secretary of the Home Service association, welfare organization which at Christmas-time provided Yule cheer and baskets of food to the city's needy Negro families.

Interviewed last week, a prominent Toronto resident declared: "The problem is really here. Negroes are in a most deplorable position economically. Not many overt acts of discrimination, but, which is far worse—an almost complete forgetfulness of their existence. A good deal of the attitude of the whites is due to the fact that the Negroes' plight has not been forcefully or intelligently brought to their attention . . . God grant that some person or agency does this."

Welfare worker Mrs. Carter stepped into the breach, interviewed professional and business men, the clergy and the press. As a result, the white citizenry took notice, meetings were called and a movement started to give law-abiding and deserving Negroes the right and privilege to make an honest living.

Most powerful organization for public good, whose members are infiltrated throughout Canada, is the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, pledged to champion the

cause of minority groups and leader of Canada's great democratic socialist and the labor movement, with headquarters here in Toronto.

Affiliate of the CCF is the Cooperative Commonwealth Youth Movement, whose aggressive, liberal members represent that spirit of fair play and tolerance so truly representative of Canadian youth.

The New Commonwealth, official

organ of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, took official notice of Jim Crow practices against colored citizens and took a definite stand against it.

# Canada's Colored Soldiers March Shoulder to Shoulder With Whites

DEC 27 1940

By JIM HEWLETT

BOSTON.—(ANP)—Elmer Smith of Boston, overseas veteran, former member of Co. L 372nd Inf., Red Hand division and one of Montreal's outstanding orchestra leaders who has been in Canada since the last World war, recently enlisted in the Canadian army.

Many other colored boys have joined the colors there and have been integrated into the various units of the army. There is no color bar and enrollees have been assigned to units according to their stated preference. A large number are now serving with contingents "somewhere in England."

One or two regiments like the Black Watch and the Scotch Highlanders which have a long and colorful military history and are attached to the king's guard remain lily-white, however. This is not due to any color discrimination but to the fact that they have always endeavored to fill the quota with men of Scotch ancestry.

Although there are as yet no colored commissioned officers, there is a sprinkling of non-coms and opportunity for advancement, I was told, will be based on merit.

# Mexico Unprejudiced, But More Negro Tourists Are Needed to Keep It So By Combatting U. S. Customs

## Second Conquest Of The Republic Below The Rio Grande Being Made By Texans

MEXICO CITY, Jan.—(By Thrya J. Edwards for ANP)—The continual storm of automobiles bearing the license plate TEXAS are crowding the highways and boulevards throughout this country this year in such for-

midable numbers as to suggest a second Conquest of Mexico. So far as the present liberal, unprejudiced attitude of Mexicans toward the Negro people this invasion of Texas is ominous.

I know of no country in the world with the exception of Russia and the Scandinavian countries, where one may move with such freedom and unrestraint in hotels, restaurants, smart night clubs, as here. There is this distinction: The Scandinavian countries are independent of tourist trade so their philosophy and tradition of democracy is uninfluenced by American tourists whom they regard as guests, not as important sources of revenue. The Soviet Union had a race problem, more complicated and deep rooted than the Negro question in the United States and to adopt a constitution guaranteeing against any manifestations of race prejudice.

Mexico is distinct from both. She has no race problem as we know it. Many highborn Mexicans are brown as the Indians. And Mexican men stare with admiration at the darker types, ignoring the blue-eyed, more Nordic exceptions. The question with the Indians is specifically an economic and cultural one and frankly recognized as such by the present administration which is instituting land and educational reforms to the end of liquidating these distinctions. Mexico does not know a race question as such. Mexican women and Mexican men marry Negroes, Germans, French, English, whomever they choose without question or comment. It would be difficult for a Mexican

one rich, unexploited resources of the country. For the past twenty years the press, representing interests hostile to Mexico's political philosophy, have spread what Alexander Carillo describes as the "Black Legend" of Mexico. Prejudicial distortions as vicious as those by which the American press has sold the Negro to Europe as a clown and a buffoon, not to be taken seriously.

This summer—and continuing on into the winter—American tourists are pouring in in greater numbers than in perhaps the past ten years. Mexico, unlike Denmark, needs the income from tourist traffic. And that tourist traffic is going to influence.

One or two hotels in Mexico City this season already gave indication of Texas influence. Two instances involved friends of mine. In the course of a visit with an executive of the State Tourists Bureau whom I know rather well and who is extremely hospitable to the idea of a closer acquaintance between the Mexican people and the Negro people, I called these incidents to his attention. He lost no time in calling these hotels and instructing them that if such a procedure was repeated their licenses would be revoked.

At the same time he said to me, "We have had 25,000 American tourists in Mexico in the past few weeks. Conventions, school groups and parties. I have seen less than a dozen Negroes, and those singly, not organized, not in groups sufficient to attract the attention of merchants and of Mexican people on the street. You've got to make yourselves felt—come in larger numbers, in groups and parties. We wouldn't then be merely defending an abstract ideal but dealing concretely with people, with friends, with a force. I'd like to extend an official invitation, in the name of the Mexican government, to Negro groups and individuals.

There are 14,000,000 Negroes or thereabouts in the United States. There are only 18,000,000 people in Mexico and the majority of these are primitive Indians. Certainly what happens in this country, at present a very liberal one, on our southern border, will affect the Negroes in the United States. Equally important for Mexico would be an informed, sympathetic public opinion that 14,000,-

000 Negroes who have some political power in the United States, though for some reason we have neglected to recognize the necessity for using it in foreign affairs as well as domestic, or more specifically Negro questions.

Aside from the racial and political importance of knowing Mexico, it really is one of the most fascinating of the many countries I know. People predominantly brown in the highest offices—Chihuahua's governor is as brown as I—give one a comfortable sense of security and warm friendliness. The scenery—the road from Monterey to Mexico City, is excitingly beautiful. Even more fantastic is the tropical lux-

uriance overhung by snow capped volcanoes on the Mexico City-Fortin-Vera Cruz route. Cuernavaca is an ancient spa. Guaralajara and the neighboring pueblos, Lake Chapala, with year round bathing, San Pedro Tilapapague where Indians sit in the plaza painting the most fantastic designs on beautiful pottery pieces, like nothing I've seen anywhere else in the world. I'll write another time about the colorful attractions of this lovely and lovable country. Women are beautiful, the men, gallant.

What I want to do now is urge you to come next summer. In groups, if possible, singly if you must. It would be a very effective move if some of our national sororities and fraternities voted to have their next Christmas session in Mexico City. There'd be the beautiful hotel Reform for the swanks. The Majestic for those who prefer the more native atmosphere of the country in which they're visiting. And there are the splendid conference rooms in the beautiful white marble Palacio des Belles Artes. No hunting around for dingy halls and grimy hotels—the accommodation that makes the life of a Negro traveler such a hard one in the U. S. A.

Or our teachers associations or the medical and dental societies or our great church conventions—religious freedom has been restored in Mexico under President Cardenas. It would be an enjoyable and exciting adventure, no more expensive than the meaner accommodations at home, and it would be important building up the prestige of the Negro.

Organize your own party if you like. I'd love helping you. Of course with no obligation to you. Or join some party. There'll be several this summer. My last letter from Adolph Hodge indicated that he's thinking along that route for summer. And of course I'm planning a group for July. One can drive down by car and join a group here—if arrangements are made ahead.

One ought start planning now—making reservations, for Mexican hotels are pretty full throughout the year. The past summer rooms were nearly unobtainable. At any rate there are dozens of reasons why you should come. Ask any friend who's been.

# James W. Ford Answers a Question Regarding The Struggles of the Mexican People

From a series of questions asked about the situation in Mexico at mass meetings addressed by James W. Ford, C. P. Vice Presidential candidate, who recently returned from a tour of Mexico, the following was selected as representative:

*Question:* Could you develop the problems involved in the establishment of the hegemony of the proletariat in the Democratic Mexican Revolution; and is it true that the middle class is predominately fascist?

*Answer:* 6-18-40  
For three decades the Mexican people have engaged in a great liberal struggle, fighting a many-sided battle for democracy against internal feudal reaction and for the independence of their country from foreign imperialist domination. During these thirty years of struggle and sacrifice the enthusiasm of the workers and peasants never lagged—the working class fought to assume its leading role; the peasants conducted themselves in the spirit of the great peasant leader, Zapata.

The Indian nationalities who constitute one-third of the population and who have resisted through centuries all kinds of attacks to destroy them, are taking their place in the modern progressive movement of the entire Mexican people.

The rising liberal bourgeoisie and the petty bourgeoisie are fighting for their interests and position in the bourgeois democratic movement. The middle classes and petty bourgeoisie occupy a very strategic position in Mexico's struggle for freedom.

## THE FEUDAL LORDS

The people's movement of Mexico is democratic and progressive throughout. Mexico is a dependent country, held back by imperialism. It is essentially agrarian. The countryside is yet to a great extent dominated by a reactionary feudal bourgeoisie which allied to the foreign imperialists. These aspects of economic control and political domination have held back

democratic forms, limited the industrial development of the country and stalled the growth of the proletariat. The Indian people are retarded and oppressed by the weight of imperialism and feudalism. The Mexican people therefore are struggling for democracy, agrarian reforms, habilitation of industry, liberation of the Indians, for national liberation, peace and against involvement of the country in the imperialist war.

During the current six years they have fought especially hard to maintain long desired and hard-won economic, social and political rights. This struggle is now being conducted under the conditions of the imperialist war, the abandonment of the Roosevelt's Good Neighbor Policy and American imperialism's hard-boiled Dollar Diplomacy penetration of Latin America. The struggle of the Mexican people is one of the outstanding development in the Western hemisphere, since Mexico is spearhead of American monopoly capital's drive into Latin America.

What social forces have headed the Mexican revolution?

General Cardenas was elected president in 1934. His successful election brought to power the liberal bourgeoisie and the petty bourgeoisie, consisting mainly of the urban middle classes. This combination of forces began to advance the Mexican revolution. The power of reaction was broken under the pressure of the awakened masses. Cardenas began to bring some benefits to the workers and peasants. He opened the doors for capitalist forms of development which gave rise to a liberal bourgeoisie and the influence of the petty bourgeoisie. Forty million hectares of land were distributed to the peasants. Trade union organization was allowed. The most significant anti-imperialist action of President Cardenas was the expropriation of the foreign oil properties which received the full and enthusiastic support of the entire Mexican people. Because the foreign oil owners have held back the national, economic and industrial development of the country.

## THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING

The Mexican people's movement was under the leadership of the petty bourgeoisie and liberal bourgeoisie. It was not under the leadership or direction of the proletariat. **THIS IS THE KEY TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION IN MEXICO.**

It is erroneous, even in the remotest sense, to say that what is taking place or has been taking place is a revolution bordering on Socialism or Communism. The imperialists and their agents make this charge as an excuse for attacking the progressive and democratic gains of the Mexican revolution.

It is true that the workers and peasants brought their pressure to bear upon these developments. President Cardenas did not initiate the demands of the toilers. The petty bourgeoisie and the liberal bourgeoisie acted under the pressure of the popular movement. They were pressed forward by the proletariat. So long as President Cardenas and the forces around him reacted to the pressure of the workers and peasants he satisfied certain demands of the people as a whole.

But this was done only in order to hold the revolution in the hands of middle class and liberal bourgeoisie and to prevent the spontaneous action of the workers and peasants below and their assuming hegemony in the movement.

From the viewpoint of a continuous and consistent struggle for the complete liberation of the country, that is the reverse of the way things ought to be in Mexico. That is why the present Mexican situation is fraught with such danger, that the gains of the revolution may be set back.

A counter-revolutionary uprising and other reactionary measures are being organized by Yankee imperialism to liquidate the gains of the revolution. Behind these plans for the uprising are the worst enemies of the Mexican people and of the labor and progressive forces in the United States. Among those forces acting for the most reactionary circles of the U. S. is Representa-

## THE WORKERS ROLE

Only the working class can lead the Mexican people in a successful struggle against Yankee imperialism who together with internal Mexican reaction, aims to destroy all the gains of the Mexican revolution. In this situation Cardenas and the petty bourgeoisie and liberal bourgeoisie may give in to Imperialism.

## NEW LEADERSHIP

The situation is all the more serious because in the recent past the Communist Party of Mexico has not occupied its leading position as the vanguard of the Mexican proletariat, leading it and rallying around it all the progressive forces committed to a program of advancing the revolution. The leadership of the Communist Party which was considerably under the influence of petty bourgeois ideology had allowed the Party to become tied to the bourgeoisie. The Party was an appendage of the Cardenas Government. Its line was distorted and the direction of the proletariat and peasantry was disorientated even to the detriment of the middle classes) which prevented the workers from assuming their leading role in the bourgeois democratic movement, as the only guarantee that this movement would develop 'the peoples' front movement against imperialism and reaction. Only by heading the struggles of the workers and all the oppressed can the proletariat achieve hegemony.

The saving grace, if time is not too short, in the present situation is that the Communist Party of Mexico has a new leadership. In an Extraordinary Congress held in March those elements that held back the Party was eliminated and the entire membership was reoriented toward advancing the leading role of the working class. Basing itself on the workers, peasants, Indian masses and the popular progressive middle class forces, as the main basis of the revolution, the Congress endorsed a program to head the struggles of the masses

and to create consciousness in the proletariat so as to place it at the head of the Mexican masses in order to make the revolution move forward towards a powerful people's front, toward a people's front government.

# U. S. Indians Victims of Imperialism

## Delegates Told at Congress in Mexico

By Alfred Miller

(Special to the Sunday Worker)

PATZCUARO, Michoacan State, Mexico, April 27.—While the diplomats and government representatives, who make up the greater part of the delegations to this Inter-American Indian Congress, are rather careful in their choice of words, words are not minced by the Mexican Indians who speak.

At a special session arranged for the Indian delegates from the various countries to get acquainted, an Otomi, speaking in his own language, greeted some twelve United States Indians as "victims of imperialism."

He spoke briefly of the oppressed minorities, said that the European war is an imperialist war, explained why and expressed the hope that the Americas would not become involved in settling "imperialist differences." When he called upon all the Indian delegates and especially upon the Indians from the United States to struggle against any effort of any government or group to get any country into the war, he was vigorously applauded.

This was the first occasion that the word "imperialist" had been mentioned at the Congress and the translator seemed to have "difficulty" in translating the phrase. There was considerable hesitation on his part but since the Otomi language, like most other languages, uses the Latin word for imperialist, it was understood by all and the phrase had to be translated.

The United States Indian delegation consists of two Hopi Indians, one representative of the Islada tribe, two Apaches, three Papagos, one Sioux, one Nez Perce and two Santa Clara Indians. Most of them were either elected by their tribes or appointed by their Councils, and the tribes are paying their expenses.

The others were picked by the U. S. government which is also footing the bill for them. This situation is interpreted as discrimination and favoritism and has caused a considerable amount of dissatisfaction.

### MEXICO SPEAKS

Mexican Indians have been articulate in many languages. Luis Morales, a Tarascan, speaking in his native tongue, got up in the Social-Economic Committee one afternoon, to blast away at the city administration of Patzcuaro.

He told of municipal agents who were often taking their wares on the market at the excuse that prices were too high. "They then sold them at prices much higher," he complained.

"Some of us take hats to the market," he explained in Tarascan, "and are charged 25 centavos for the privilege of selling each hat."

"These people make two hats a week, which sell at two pesos or at two and fifty centavos," he explained, describing the conditions of his people. He spoke of the tortilla makers who are charged eight centavos by the municipal authorities for each four litres sold.

Luis Morales bitterly complained of one incident where the authorities had promised a tractor to the Indians if they would build a road. "We built this road," he said, "but then they refused to give us the tractor. They promised us a little mill to grind corn for making tortillas instead. But we never even got that."

He told the delegates that they are back in tax payments and asked that the Congress intervene so that their tax arrears might be forgotten.

Prof. Mendizabal, one of the Mexican delegates, then explained that Mexico had no desire to cover up "the conditions just described."

"The greatest charges weighing upon the Indian are the Mestizos who do not take part in industrial or rural production," he said, emphasizing that President Lazaro Cardenas and the federal authorities are fighting these conditions.

### RESOLUTION ON LAND

The central and most important issue of the Congress, that of recommending to the American governments to take measures against the "regime of land concentration" and to provide their respective Indian populations with land, water, credit and technical means of production, was unanimously voted in the affirmative by the plenary session of the Congress on April 20, thus ending in Mexico's favor a hard battle, which had developed chiefly between Mexico and the United States.

The United States delegation had vigorously opposed the Mexican formulation which demanded that the countries of the American continent expedite legislation designed to aid the disappearance of the regime of land concentration, and to "give land water, credit and the necessary technical resources to the groups of Indian population in order to make them important factors within the economy of the country to which they belong."

Seeing a serious blow to United States imperialist interests if this resolution would be accepted by the representatives of practically all the American governments participating in this Congress, the United States delegates fought tooth and nail against it. In the committee they tried to kill the resolution by presenting amendments and finally by stalling. When they were defeated, however, they had sufficient grace to vote in favor of it at the plenary session today.

The fight in the Social-Economic Committee started when John A. Cooper, professor of Ar-

cheology of the Catholic University of America, a member of the U. S. delegation, declared that his delegation could not support the above conclusion "because it goes beyond what we can support according to the instructions we have received."

The resolution was the conclusion of a paper presented to the Congress by the Mexican Department of Agriculture, explaining "The Treatment of the Indians in the Redistribution of Rural Property."

Cooper proposed the following substitute resolution:

"The need to make available to the Indians sufficient land, water, credit and technical resources is paramount and the Congress recommends this need to the close attention of the American nations."

This motion drew heavy fire immediately from Mexico's most outstanding delegate Vicente Lombardo Toledano, who sharply analyzed the concentration of land in a few hands and insisted that "the agrarian problem cannot be solved without taking into consideration the interests of the Indian and mestizo groups which are the majority."

Dothan, Ala. Eagle  
July 29, 1940

### RACE PREJUDICE IN MEXICO

To cross the border into Mexico is to enter another and, to an American Negro, a freer world. I shall not soon forget that all-too-brief interlude of freedom. Mexico may have its faults, like all countries, but race prejudice is emphatically not one of them.

Piedras Negras is picturesque and the country below it even more so. Here are the most beautiful brown barefoot children you've ever seen, well-uniformed soldiers, health clinics, \$1-a-day hotels with running water in each room and no jim crow; attractive roadhouses in the suburbs with accommodating eye-filling hostesses and guitar-playing entertainers; cheap and excellent food, and the best of liquor and beer at extremely attractive prices. With an income of \$5 a week one could live like a king or a sultan, and a crow complexion would be an asset instead of a liability.—George S. Schuyler, Negro journalist, in the Pittsburgh Courier.



This scene at a Canadian Indian village pictures the lot for millions of Indians in North and South America who for the most part are segregated in reservations without a right to develop and enjoy the most elementary rights of life.

# NEGRO TOURISTS - MUST APPLY TO MEXICO FOR VISAS

This Procedure Does  
Not Operate Against  
Other U. S. Visitors

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—A protest was registered last week, by Sidney B. Redmond, president of the National Bar Association, with the Mexican government for its discriminatory attitude towards the American Negro. The action came as the result of an inquiry being made by President Redmond as to the Negroes desiring to go to Mexico.

Raul G. Dominguez, Mexican consul, writing to Attorney Redmond, stated:

"In reference to your kind letter of June 12, 1940, addressed to Mr. Joel Quinones, former consul of Mexico in this city, I wish to inform you that in accordance with the immigration law of Mexico, the Negro people are included in a group of persons all of whom must apply for their own permits directly to:

"Secretaria de Gobernacion,  
"Departamento de Poblacion,  
"Mexico, D.F.,  
"Mexico."

That this is a gross discrimination against the Negroes is shown in the reply written by Mr. Redmond, Saturday, July 13, in which he pointed out that no other group of American citizens is so treated. Redmond's protest, addressed to Mexico City, said:

"Our attention has just been called to a letter from Mr. Raul G. Dominguez, Mexican consul in St. Louis, which says that 'in accordance with the immigration law of Mexico, the Negro people are included in a group of persons all of whom must apply for their own permits directly to Mexico City,' instead of getting them directly from the local Mexican consul, as all other Americans do.

"We are indeed surprised that Mexico should take such action as this. It is unwarranted discrimination by your government and inconsistent with its great history.

"The National Bar Association begs to take this means of protesting the law and of urging its repeal so that fair play and equality will be offered to all who visit your beautiful country.  
"S. R. Redmond, President."

## Charge Jim Crow Ruled On Mexican Immigration

Progressive Mexican Lawyers Reply Asserting  
That Law Permits No Discrimination  
Against Negroes Visiting Country

OCT 11 1940

The Council for Pan American Democracy today released an official statement which it has received from the Mexican government as well as a public pronouncement by the Lawyers Guild of the P.R.M. concerning alleged discrimination in the immigration laws of Mexico against American citizens of the Negro race.

Both the statement and the pronouncement came in reply to several complaints made to the Council for Pan-American Democracy by the National Negro Congress, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National Bar Association to the effect that certain Consular representatives of Mexico in the U. S. were showing a discriminatory attitude toward American Negroes desiring to visit Mexico.

This is exemplified by a communication sent July 13, 1940 to Attorney Sydney I. Redmond, president of the National Bar Association, by Senor Raul G. Dominguez, Mexican Consul in St. Louis, Mo., in which he stated that the Negro people are included in a "group" of persons all of whom must apply for their permit directly to the Mexican Ministry of the Interior."

### LAW BARS DISCRIMINATION

In denying the existence of any discrimination against the Negro people in the immigration laws of Mexico, the Mexican Government instructs its consular representatives in the U. S. that "whenever people of the said citizenship and race desire to enter our national territory as tourists, our consulates must grant them the necessary permits." Direct application to the Ministry of the Interior—the statement add—is necessary only in those cases in which American citizens, whether Negro or white, desire to enter Mexico as immigrants.

The Lawyers Guild of the P.R.M. in its pronouncement similarly states that "There exists no clause in the immigration laws of Mexico which places limitations of entrance into Mexico on individuals of the Negro race, unless it be for reasons other than race or color."

## Citizenship Lost By Negroes Under New Panama Constitution

NOV 30 1940

PANAMA—The new constitution of the Republic of Panama, passed unanimously by the National Assembly last Saturday, contains a clause which classifies as foreigners all children of Asiatics and Negroes "whose original language is not Spanish." Thousands of Negroes who have hitherto regarded themselves as Panamanian citizens will be denationalized when the constitution goes into effect. They were all born in Panama, the

children of West India laborers who came here to help build the Panama Canal around the turn of the century.

The new constitution, intended to take the place of the old constitution adopted in 1904 at the time of the formation of the Panamanian Republic, is described as "Republican, Democratic and Unitarian," and will be submitted to a plebiscite December 15. It is expected to go into effect on January 2 on the tenth anniversary of the revolution which resulted in the overthrow of the regime of President Florencio H. Arosemena.

### WANT ZONE JOBS

In an effort to create jobs for its thousands of unemployed, the government recently petitioned and obtained a new labor agreement with Canal Zone authorities, calling for the replacement of West Indian laborers with Panamanians.

The new constitutional clause is interpreted here as a further attempt to provide working opportunities for Panamanians by denying citizenship rights to the children of those West Indians and Asiatics who were able to hold jobs because they could qualify as citizens under the terms of the old constitution.

# RACE PROBLEM - 1940 CENTRAL AMERICA

## PANAMA CANAL ZONE

By FLOYD G. SNELSON

**Belligerent warfare in the South Atlantic, the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico at recent intervals are keeping the armed forces of the United States in a nightmare, in view of the close proximity of the Panama Canal, the nation's vital ship locks connecting the two great oceans.**

For many years the question of maintenance and operation has been of paramount concern of the White House in Washington, and has given the Army, Navy and Air forces a subject of constant vigil.

No instance of mention has tended to give credit due the 15,000 or more Negro workers in the Canal Zone, whose loyalty and confidence for the safety of the "big ditch" has been beyond doubt the greatest security of all.

During a recent voyage to Honolulu, the writer made two crossings of the great waterway and spent much time on the Isthmus, which gave the opportunity to get first hand information, and see just what the conditions were.

Sabotage is the most immediate threat to the Canal and the greatest danger . . . Sabotage by one man or by a desperate group . . . in one place or a thousand place . . . by persons within or from the outside.

The canal's world-famous locks are ample targets for saboteurs.

Some think it might come from among the Negro laborers of the Canal Zone, as one noted writer put it "mostly black West Indians and brown Panamanians" bossed by Southern white Americans who know how to "handle" them. The whites receive six times the wages, \$55 a month paid the black workers. In spite of that the great majority are loyal—but lately proof has come that some are not.

Southern race prejudice has dominated and ruled the Canal Zone from the beginning of the construction period in 1904, due principally to the white engineers and crews from Dixie during the administrations of its governors, who were mostly of southern birth.

At the peak of construction more than 56,000 Negro workers were employed on the canal project, and were glad to work for wages as low as \$30 a month while the whites received many times that amount. Even when organized labor unions caused substantial increases for the workers, the blacks were excluded from the unions and its benefits. The same conditions prevail.

### EUROPEAN WAR MEANS DANGER

The Canal is an investment of over a half billion dollars today; in a few years it will be twice that. The Negro worker is the mainstay of man power, and little appreciation is given for his value and reliable service.

The U. S. government has collected millions in tolls, and in late years the canal has shown a neat profit, to say nothing of the tremendous savings to our shipping and industry and the world's.

But—far more, it is the jugular vein of our army and navy. Thanks to the canal, a one-ocean fleet can shuttle back and forth from the Atlantic and Pacific oceans instead of three or four weeks around Cape Horn.

But—what if the canal were blocked or captured by sabotage or air bombing, or blocked by an enemy fleet or army. What if they seized and used it against us?

There are risks if war comes to us; but with war in Europe, and the belligerents already fighting in nearby waters, there is still a risk. With the canal neutral, admitting ships of all nations, Britain and France transporting men and supplies to and from their empires; in order to stop that the Fascist powers might attempt to sabotage the canal at any time.

### RACE PREJUDICE

The Negro in the Canal Zone is the underdog, regardless of the fact that if it wasn't for him, the whole works would be in distress. Rank discrimination, malicious jim crow are rampant and ruthlessly only on U. S. government property—the Canal Zone. Even Y.M.C.A. facilities are separate.

The antagonistic feeling of the white Americans toward the blacks, on account of color makes them easy prey for foreign agents, who have already kept the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the run for some time guarding against espionage and sabotage.



FLOYD G. SNELSON

If the Negro workers respond to the lure, he may find Nazi-Fascists warming up to him . . . especially the oppressed and low paid laborer . . . "Rotten the way they discriminate against you. Why not get even? Besides get a chance to make some big money and go where you can live and be treated like a human being.

Very rarely if ever, yet, such words have effect. The net result has been to cause the colored man to report such overtures, or anything else suspicious. They love their country, their canal and their job.

### A NAZI JOKE

An interesting story heard in the Canal Zone last summer gives witness to the loyalty and fortitude of the Negro laborers, who are well aware of the peril of warring nations, against the safety of the canal.

As the Hamburg-American liner Wasgenland went through Gatun Locks a German messboy heaved overboard a package—and for a moment the tropic air was full of tragedy and hysteria.

Soldiers and Negro workers in particular shouted. Bells rang. From the bottom of the lock chamber a special contrivance disgorged the package, which was opened amid intense silence. Then a gasped

"Thank God" was the chorus of theas just a few hundred men were on black voices.

The package contained a flatiron. The force was enlarged to which the messboy explained was 17,000 the first year. This not sufficient the commission began systematically to recruit laborers from a topic of discussion for some time Europe, chiefly from Spain, and also

How might enemies-within-the-contracted for several thousand gates strike at the Canal? That is Chinese from the Orient. A great the favorite—and grim—argument outcry was raised in the U. S. and just now in Panama's open air these plans were abandoned. The drink emporiums, sidewalk cafes Spaniards who came to the Canal and balcony cocktail lounges.

Uncle Sam is already in an unshortage of the wine allowance declared war against danger—that which accompanied their meals, was may cut this American lifeline. finally cut off.

Blackout experiments, gas masks Finally the commissioner came to strict martial law, gadgets of pro-the point of view that West Indian tection, and secret maneuvers have labor proved most satisfactorily in been in progress from the begin-the long run, and renewed importation of hostilities in Europe, mostions of the West Indians, who if of which are hardly observed out-given credit are responsible for the side military circles. success of the giant project. And

### 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Th year 1939 marked the 25th anniversary for the great waterway the greatest engineering marvel of modern genius, and a monument to the United States, which was celebrated with pomp and ostentatious ceremony.

When the first ship passed through the Panama Canal on August 15 1914, it brought into realization the

romantic dream of emperors, navigators, conquerors and historians who, for over 400 years, had visualized a shorter route connecting the Old World with the fabulously rich but little known East Indies, of the Pacific.

The idea of the ship canal across the Isthmus of Panama was born shortly after Columbus discovered the New World. On his fourth and last voyage to America in 1502 Columbus sailed along the coast of Panama, seeking a passage through the land which blocked his path to the Indies and it was then that the idea of an Isthmian ship canal was convinced.

The Canal Zone Government was established May 17, 1904 by order of President Theodore Roosevelt, which was responsible for the completion of the remarkable feat, after taking it over from the French. In 1907 Major General George Washington Goethals was placed in charge of the construction and is given credit as the builder of the canal. In 1914 he was appointed the first governor. He died in 1928.

Among the relics of the construction days which have never been satisfactorily preserved are the songs and chanteys of the West Indian laborers. Most of them have never been printed or set to music. If Governor Goethals went to Balboa across the canal on business in his yellow motor car, the gangs along the line as he passed worked the rest of the day to the version of this sort, chanted to a monotonous tone:

"Colonel's gone—gone to Balboa Gone -- in his -- yellow -- motor car."

One of the standard favorites was "Yellow Jane" which ran like this: The leader sang: "Sally's gone to the mountain" and the gang would chant: "High, low Jane." "She's gone for the yellow plantain—High, low Jane." "High, low Jane—Hip—Pipi for Mary—High low Janes."

Another favorite which has a WEST INDIAN WORKERS When the U. S. took over the French Canal company the question of labor was the first big problem,

more melodious tune is "Monkey Jawbone," which in dialect runs like this:

"Gone a Long Pon' fe watah,  
Hear the bull frog a holler  
Ask the watchman a warer  
'Monkey jawbone so sweet'."

Which translated into our English is:

Go to Long Pond for water  
Hear the bull frog holler,  
Ask the watchman what it is  
And the watchman, (who is hav-  
ing his supper), says  
'Monkey jawbone is sweet.'

The day after payday when the  
gangs had been out late the night  
before and all were feeling a little  
remorseful, the chantey for the day  
was this:

"I drink white rum and tumble  
down.  
Don't want dntie (dirty) white  
man come trouble me;  
Iron bar, iron bar.  
Don't want dntie white man come  
trouble me.

The women had an equivalent  
song. On the day the pay-train was  
due in the settlements along the  
line, all the West Indian wives  
would sing:

"Today's my man's pay-day."

In addition to the chanteys there  
were a number of West Indian  
songs that came to the Isthmus with  
the laborers or else were conceived  
there. Chief of the most famous of  
these is: "Sly Mongoose." There was  
another "Money Grows like apples  
on trees, down in Panama," during  
the height of prosperity. One of the  
catchiest melodies was "Labor  
Train," which took the workers to  
and fro to work. "Ah, pour me one,"  
is another which is still sung.

Considered the best of all the  
chanteys was Jim Crow, which had  
many verses. To give an example:

Pick up your picks and shovels in  
your hand  
Jim Crow today, today.  
We're going to work for Uncle  
Sam,  
Jim Crow today, today

Through stormy weather rain or  
shine,  
Jim Crow today, today.  
We've got to work for that meager  
dime,  
Jim Crow today, today.

When we get pay we gwine drink  
gin  
Jim Crow today, today.  
If it don't make us fat, it won't  
make us thin,  
Jim Crow today, today.

"OH POH ME ONE"  
To gamble in the stree' won't do  
us any harm  
When the police come he'll grab  
us by the arm,  
Oh poh me one, all of dem pon poh

me one.  
Roll yuh dice and hav' yuh fun  
Yuh gotta run like hel' when the  
police come,  
Oh poh me one, all of dem pon  
poh me one.

These chanteys by the Negro  
gangs from the West Indies are very  
similar and typical of their brothers  
and sisters on the levees and cotton  
plantations in the Southland. Many  
were topical, based on the doings of  
the head men of the leading white  
families. It proves that Negroes  
are in unison when it comes to song  
and music.

#### GOLD AND SILVER

It was customary during the Pana-  
ma construction days that Negro  
laborers were usually paid in U. S.  
silver money and the white Ameri-  
cans in gold coin, which was prob-  
ably natural in the days of the  
silver dollars and the 5s and 10s  
dollars gold pieces. Possibly for  
convenience.

It turned out that the blacks were  
referred to as the silver and the  
whites as gold. This resulted in such  
a manner that concerns, establish-  
ments, and business transactions  
catered to either gold or silver or  
both.

Gold and silver organizations  
were formed, and when the color  
line was used, it was qualified by  
either silver or gold.

#### NEGROES SURVIVE

Probably the only race in the  
world who could possibly survive  
the deadly tropical existence en-  
countered were the Negroes during  
the Panama construction. Many  
thousands of workers lost their lives  
during the terrible experiences, but  
the blacks seemed unhampered.  
They struggled through the swamps  
and dense jungles, which were a  
halo of pestilence and sudden death  
to the white man. It is painted as  
a land of warring, crawling and  
flying death—ferocious wild beasts,  
mammals, snakes, worms, and in-  
sects—a country where any white  
man was sure of swift destruction.

Heavy toll of lives was severe  
from the dangers of tropical diseases  
including malaria, rash, dysentery,  
colera morbus, with outbreaks of  
bubonic plague, sharp ones of  
smallpox, leprosy, and the harbor-  
ing of intestinal parasites from  
hookworms to ameba and various  
other terrifying epidemics.

The government spent millions of  
dollars for hospitals, quarantine  
and fumigation to master the living  
death in the zone, and unstinted  
praise is due the thousands of Ne-  
groes who in spite of this panic  
stuck to their duties, while 6,630  
lives were taken up to the opening  
of the canal.

ODE  
The mighty oceans join after long  
years

Over the ground that knows salt  
of tears—  
A bloody and unstable ground  
that man  
Has glorified and freed from many  
a ban.  
The Panama of pest hole, harlot,  
lout  
Is now no more. She stands  
With young unfettered hands  
Greeting the world she lived so  
long without.

Another wonder of the world is  
made!  
Nothing can spoil  
The spirit that has made it,  
nothing fade  
The epic page of toil.

Four presidents of the U. S. have  
visited the Canal Zone. President  
Theodore Roosevelt in 1906; Presi-  
dent Taft in 1912; President Har-  
ding in 1920 who made goodwill tours  
to the Isthmus.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
has been to Panama three times, in  
1934, 1935, and 1938.

These chief executives of the na-  
tion highly praised the great work  
but none have ever given mention  
of the great service and loyalty of  
the black man.

# PROTEST VENEZUELA BAR AGAINST NEGRO SAILORS

## Secretary Hull Asked to Urge South Ameri- can Republic to Abandon Policy of Discrimination

DEC 20 1940 — which the Mexican government dis-  
continued when it was brought to  
its attention and it was found out  
that Mexican Consuls were not act-  
ing according to the policy of their  
government, has encouraged other  
countries to set up bars, the N.A.  
A.C.P. letter said. The case of  
Panama, whose government still  
continues to operate a policy of  
discrimination against American  
Negro citizens, was also mentioned.  
"It is difficult to understand,"  
said Thurgood Marshall, special  
counsel for the association, who  
signed the letter, "how unity is to  
be built up in this hemisphere if  
other nations are permitted to dis-  
criminate against American citi-  
zens because of the race or color."

NEW YORK. — Secretary  
of State Hull was asked this  
week by the National Asso-  
ciation for the Advance-  
ment of Colored People to  
"persuade the Venezuelan govern-  
ment to discontinue" a policy of dis-  
crimination which bars Negro and  
Chinese members of the crew on  
American ships from enjoying shore  
leave at any port controlled by the  
government of this South-Ameri-  
can Republic.

In a letter to Mr. Hull, a copy of  
a notice posted on the American  
vessel, "U. S. Gulfhawk," was out-  
lined. The notice, dated Novem-  
ber 11, which was sent to the As-  
sociation by a member of the or-  
ganization living in Philadelphia,  
reads as follows:

- "1. Any member of the crew  
belonging to belligerent na-  
tion.
- "2. Any person of the Negro  
race.
- "3. Any person of the yellow  
race. (Chinamen)

"No passes will be issued to the  
above mentioned persons by order  
of the Venezuelan government. Any  
person disobeying the above instruc-  
tions does so at his own risk. What  
the punishment is for disobeying  
these instructions, I don't know,  
but whatever it is, persons disobey-  
ing them must be ready to accept  
the consequences for their actions  
so that there shall be no misunder-  
standing about these instructions  
you may call at the Venezuelan  
Consulate for verification through  
your Union agent at Philadelphia.  
(Signed) John F. Charlton (Cap-  
tain) *San Jose City, N.S.*  
The failure of the State depart-  
ment to protest discrimination in  
the case of Americans seeking visas  
for entrance into Mexico, a policy

## THE CUBAN ELECTIONS

*Defender*  
Justo Salas, a Cuban Negro, has been elected mayor of Santiago de Cuba, the second largest city of Cuba. Salas was supported by the masses of people despite the opposition of the so-called Liberal Party leaders. In the same elections Col. Fulgencio Batista, who also has a strain of Negro blood, was elected president of the little Caribbean republic. Things are moving south of the border.

*Chicago, Ill.*  
This will be good news to Negroes in this country despite the fact that only a few Negroes here look favorably upon the Marxist philosophy.

The idea of the inferiority of black men carried so widely throughout the Americas by those who created the color line here is being broken down before the march of the masses of the people seeking democracy. The Cuban elections are for this reason of great significance to black men in the West Indies and the United States. In fact all lovers of peace and democracy may look with a new hope on the Cuban electorate.

The elevation of Justo Salas proclaims a new order of things. He is the first Negro mayor of Santiago de Cuba although Oriente, of which Santiago de Cuba is the capital, is a province in which Negroes are in the majority. We may well be proud of this vote and we can do well to begin to give more attention to what is happening in Latin America.

This election stands out when contrasted to the more than 173 counties throughout the Black Belt where Negroes are in the majority and still cannot even vote. Cuban democracy is setting an example for us.

Cuba is coming forward in spite of all the attempts of the American sugar interests to control its political life and to carry the old hatred of Negroes into all economic, political and cultural affairs. Certainly Negroes in the United States may well hope that the Roosevelt-Hull program will not be put over at the conference of the American republics in Havana. One high Cuban official says of the conference, it was "called by imperialism to fasten the chains of slavery upon the Latin-American people." When we consider the attitude toward Negroes here at home it is fervently hoped that Wall street will not gain control over the destinies of those other American countries with their large bloc of Negro citizens.

Cuba has the sympathy of Negro America.

*new masses*  
CUBA: Communists elected four mayors in big cities in recent elections, among them Justo Salas, first Negro to achieve such office.

## HULL, TENNESSEE, LUNCHES WITH NEW CUBAN PRESIDENT

*Courier*  
By WILLIAM PICKENS for ANP  
Batista, who has just been elected president of Cuba, is

a Negro. If he had been born in South Carolina, he would never have been permitted to get education enough to become an army sergeant and shoot and bully his way into a dictatorship of Cuba, as he did a few years ago. Now he has got out of the dictator class and comes up into a more respectable status as elected chief executive of his native land.

What difference does it make?

We would not even mention it if it were not for the idiotic attitude of Americans toward their fellow-citizens of Negro blood. We see in the papers a picture of Hull, of Tennessee, in close tete-a-tete with Fulgencio Batista, at a dinner in Havana. What of that, too? Why it shows up the hypocrisy and uncivilization of these Southerners in their own country. In Cuba it is all right: a Negro is chief of the army or is president of the government, and therefore, for all practical purposes, a Negro is not a Negro any longer. Georgia girls go to Cuba, as "queens of cotton" or something like that, and of course they have to be entertained by the secretary of the interior in Cuba, who may be a dark brown Negro, and they cover it up by the fiction that he is a "Cuban," as if "Cuban" were the name of a race instead of simply a national word. In the same sense, a black man of Mississippi is a Mississippian, and any Negro of America is simply an "American."

Maceo the Great, the George Washington of Cuba, who battled for its independence, was also a Negro, more Negroid than half the Negroes of the United States, and far more Negro in blood than is even Batista. Maceo's old black mother gave all her sons to the cause of freedom for Cuba. The Cubans have built great monuments to this mother and this son. A few years ago, when Batista first became a dictator and seized power, and killed a few opponents, our American newspapers men-

tioned the interesting fact that he was a Cuban Negro, because then they expected him to fail soon, and that would be a "Negro failure." But as his dictatorship stuck, they gradually lost track of their anthropology and forgot his origin, and now that he has become president of Cuba by election of its people, we expect them to forget that he is a Negro permanently in America, and never, never, never mention it again.

Batista visited us a little while ago, while he was army head and dictator. That was funny enough. But if he comes again now, while he is "Chief Executive" of one of our "Sister Republics," what a laugh it will be on our idiotic American race prejudice!

*8-10-40*  
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## West Indians Declare

### Loyalty to Uncle Sam

*Call*  
NEW YORK.—(ANP)—Recognizing the danger of control of the Caribbean peoples by non-American powers, the West Indies National Emergency Committee sponsored a mass meeting here Monday, at which some 4,000 persons present unanimously pledged a fight for self-government and loyalty to the United States.

The recent world-shaking military events in Europe and the resulting critical situation for the West Indian have heightened their insistent demand for self-determination and self-government, declared Hope R. Stevens, chairman of the committee.

A Declaration of Rights, unanimously adopted by the committee, includes the group's subscription to every sincere effort for the "extirpation of all forces hostile to democratic institutions," and pledges fullest cooperation with

America in every action necessary to defend, preserve and extend democracy in the Western Hemisphere and to uphold democratic principles throughout the world.

## NEGRO IS ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF CUBA

### Dean Pickens Points to Racial Phase

*Argus*  
By William Pickens for ANP

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cause of freedom for Cuba. The Cubans have built great monuments to this Mother and this Cuban.

HAITI IS GUARDING AGAINST SABOTAGE

*Courier*  
PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti, July 25.—(ANP)—In move against spy activities in Haiti, the Department of the Interior last week ordered the arrest of loiterers and suspicious persons. To be tried before a tribunal, persons found guilty of plotting against the government will be transferred to neighboring islands to be employed in works of public utility. Those whose guilt is attributable to some mental defect will be interned at Pont-Beudet.

# Dukedom Off Miami

If you plan to visit the Bahamas, be sure to look for Jerry. He will drive you, to the tune of a merri- ment typical of Negro geniality, to the places secret in his heart where flourish the wild orchids. Or, if you do not care for Jerry and his or- chids—there are 30 species of flower in the island—you can take unto yourself the leisurely privileges of the capital Nassau, and enjoy to the full what is known as the world's most glorious sugar Para- dise Beach. You can watch, if you will, the multicolored sails of grace- ful craft flying against the tur- quoise background of the sea. Whether these or the shops around the British Colonial Hotel attract you, nothing will prevent your ready agreement that here is a capital fit for a duke, especially when that duke has been a king.

When Edward, Duke of Windsor, sets himself down in Government House to wield the pen of British colonial office, he may write a chap- ter into the annals of his new duke- dom off Miami as yet impossible to foretell. Previous to his appoint- ment to this post, the two most no- table events in the history of the islands had taken place in 1492 and 1859, respectively. The first was the landing of Columbus at San Salvador; the second, the granting by the British crown of a subsidy to Samuel Cunard, whereby he was able to initiate a monthly mail ser- vice between New York and Nassau.

Columbus wrote to Ferdinand and Isabella that "this country"—mean- ing the eastern extremes of the Bahama group—"excels all others as far as the day surpasses the night in splendor." Of the aborigines, who met a sad end at the hands of Haiti's governor in 1509, Columbus said that "their conversation is the sweetest imaginable; their faces al- ways smiling."

Windsor comes as Governor-Gen- eral. Never before has the govern- mental head been so vested; this title has been reserved for use in the dominions. So the appointment of the duke raises a question with the tradition-supporting Britishers of Nassau as to just what destiny the circumstance portends. Perhaps the title has been given Edward merely because of his unique posi- tion in the empire. Again, it may suggest that British possessions to the southeast of the United States are to be gathered into one fold and

given dominion status.

One guess is trustworthy. Wind- sor has been for many years the em- pire's No. 1 salesman to America. And now this man, whose private career has lately overshadowed his tremendous importance as the world's best-trained monarch, is to live not two hours' flying distance from the United States, the well- spring of Bahama prosperity.

As nobody knows the whole story of the 29 islands, the cays, the rocks which make up the Bahama group, so no one can forelimit the possible activities of a man who has spe- cialized, time and time again, in the role of good-will ambassador. Tiled roofs and gardens aflame with gay flora set a vivid backdrop for his coming. He will have to deal with an annual rallying of wealthy American tourists, a colony of Brit- ishers catering to American appre- ciation of good management, and a large population of picturesque but improvident Negroes. These will be his routine tasks. Beyond them, will he be figurehead or missionary?

When the duke relinquished his throne, he said that if needed he would return to the service of his country. In this crisis of liberty that is upon us, have circumstances of- fered him an opportunity to serve both the Old World and the New?

(Kimmis Hartley Hendrick in The Christian Science Monitor)

## HULL, TENNESSEE, LUNCHES WITH NEW CUBAN PRESIDENT

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## A NEGRO GOVERNOR

DEC 14 1940

With the resignation of Lawrence W. Cramer as Gov- ernor of the Virgin Islands, why should not a capable Negro citizen be appointed to that post? There are literally hun- dreds of colored Americans capable of filling it.

The population of the Virgin Islands is 85,120, of whom at least 84,000 are colored.

If it is proper for a white man to govern 84,000 Negroes, it is certainly proper for a colored man to govern 1,120 whites.

Dean William H. Hastie of the Howard University Law School, has served as Federal judge in the Virgin Islands, a post now held by another able Negro lawyer, Herman Moore of Chicago. So the islands are used to Negro officials.

The Roosevelt Administration could go a long way to- ward reviving the faith of colored citizens in its programs and pronouncements by appointing a capable colored man to this post.

It is doubtful that even such professional Negrophobes as "The Man" Bilbo, Pat Harrison and Tom Connally would object to a colored man having this post, although a squawk might be anticipated from the naval officers stationed at St. Thomas.

cause of freedom for Cuba. The Cubans have built great monuments to this mother and this son.

A few years ago, when Batista first became a dictator and seized power, and killed a few opponents, our American newspapers men- tioned the interesting fact that he was a Cuban Negro, because then they expected him to fail soon, and that would be a "Negro failure." But as his dictatorship stuck, they gradually lost track of their an- thropology and forgot his origin, and now that he has become presi- dent of Cuba by election of its people, we expect them to forget that he is a Negro permanently in America, and never, never, never mention it again.

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# DOMINICAN HAVEN FOR THE EXILES

## Takes In Victims of Merciless Warfare

CUIDAD TRUJILLO, Dominican Republic, Jan. 30 — The largely Negro Dominican Republic opened its doors immediately for settlement of 500 families of persecuted European minorities, mostly from Germany and Poland, this week and became the largest new haven for refugees from war-torn Europe. General Rafael Leonidas Trujillo signed papers which it was said would lead to the ultimate admission of 100,000 settlers in the Caribbean island on which Haiti is one-third. It has a population of about 1,500,000 and an area of about 19,000 square miles. Trujillo donated 24,000 acres of land for the first settlers.

### Is A Light In Darkness

Showing one of the broadest displays of liberalism that any country has exhibited during the exodus of thousands of Jews and Poles driven from Germany and Poland by the Germans and Russians, the Dominican Republic agreed to initiate a law to modify existing immigration laws exempting settlers from entry taxes and to permit equipment, tools, etc., to enter free of duty. It also guarantees full opportunity to continue their lives free of molestation, discrimination or persecution.

Trujillo, who was known as the dictator of the Dominican Republic until his congress conferred on him the title of Benefactor, because even his opponents admit he has put the Republic in the front rank of Latin-America in the ten years since he seized power, had the agreement signed in his presence which made it more binding.

### Aims To Build

According to Trujillo's offer refugees are invited to settle in allocated areas, build their own communities and start new activ-

ities which will not compete with the Republic's established industries of sugar, cocoa, coffee and tobacco.

The Dominican Republic expected at first to charge \$500 a person, but is now reported to have waived this charge because of the desirability of getting new industries and the accompanying new money and new energy, as well as trade, technical and professional groups. This refugee project, which received its first support from Jewish sources, is extended in its application to non-Jewish refugees.

Meting out imprisonment, death or at least exile to those who opposed him, he established schools throughout an illiterate country, hospitals, public works and generally raised the health and living standards of the Dominican Republic.

## NEGRO RESIGNS AS ITALIAN CONSUL WHEN MUSSOLINI ENTERS WAR

ST. THOMAS, Virgin Islands (ANP)—George Levi, a native, submitted his resignation as Italian consul immediately after Mussolini's declaration of war against France and England. Local churches are praying for an Allied victory.

# MEET AURELIO BERMUDEZ, LATIN AMERICA'S LEADING CRIMINOLOGIST, WHO IS ALSO A NEGRO

COLON, R. R. (ANP)—

Although achieving high honor in his own country, greater honor came to Aurelio E. Bermudez, one-time chief of the department of criminal investigation, when he was forced to flee his native Panama for the nearby republic of Costa Rica.

The only Negro to hold the coveted position of chief of the investigation department for the entire republic of Panama, don Aurelio also established the record of being the youngest government official in Panama up to the year 1922.

Last Thursday, like a conqueror here, Mr. Bermudez who holds the portfolio of supernumary police consultant and special investigator for several governments, arrived by Pan-Airways at Frantel apartments yesterday, "and it co field, Canal Zone, an intransigent passenger. Mr. Bermudez on his way to Ecuador, Peru and other South American countries.

When word was flashed to Panama that the man who, under Colonel Lamb, white American head of the Panama police, more than two decades ago established an investigation bureau comparable in Central and South America and the West Indies, was due here great jubilation was felt by the civic-minded Negroes and liberal whites. On the other hand, politics of both races who are cognizant of the personality of the Negro and those familiar with his inherent honesty and sincerity, speculated as to the political significance attached to his return.

But don Aurelio who speaks English as fluently as his mother tongue, Spanish, does not seek reinstatement to his former high position in Panama. More honor than that bestowed by his own country has come to him in Costa

Rican Moslem troops have recently arrived; they are under Indian as well as British officers and are probably by now at the front, they will be under Indian military law. The British army is providing extra winter clothing or them; they came with many, many mules and special foods: ice ghi (a kind of butter), dal lentils), atta (a sort of flour), and chillis and spices and millions of Indian cigarettes. Live animals have been bought by officers of the British general staff, or these have to be killed according to Moslem rites.

Not long ago Ghandi sent a message to one of the leading English papers, the "News Chronicle," of which this was one of the main points: No wonder Hitler has challenged the British Rica and Columbia.

"This is Home to me," don Aurelio told the Associated Negro Press when interviewed in his hotel apartments yesterday, "and it would be superfluous to say I'm glad to be back home even for a few days."

"Is it true, don Aurelio, that your return to Panama almost simultaneously with the nomination of Dr. Ricardo Alfaro as candidate for the presidency, is an indication that you intend to resume your career here?" he was asked.

"It is merely coincidental—my return and Dr. Alfaro's nomination," suavely beamed the one-time chief grinning broadly. "Of course, it is easy to attach political significance to my visit, but here are my credentials, letters of recommendation and other papers bearing upon my mission to South America. For certain reasons quite divorced from Panama politics, I come by the way of Panama in the prosecution of the great work with which I am intrusted."

"But you have not revealed the nature of your mission" insisted the press.

"Well, I am sure you are bound to respect my silence on this score. Mine is a confidential mission, the divulgence of which would defeat its own purpose. And most of all, the press, like a woman, "is at the top of every joy and at the bottom of every evil" it depends of course, on where ox is good."

Mr. Bermudez, the acme of amiability, showed no haughtiness during the interview. Despite his high position, he took time out to explain certain interesting phases of his career abroad and to emphasize his interest in problems of the race and his desire that Negroes, when they have reached the top "would not kick down the ladder of progress to other members of the group."

"Too often we see Negroes who have made enviable records by their achievements and attainments turn their backs on the less fortunate of the group instead of lending a helping hand. While I admit that a Negro has to be thrice the superior of other races in ability to hold positions supposedly the inalienable right of the Nordic, the world is awakening to the need of ability and trustworthiness than to color. And who is more loyal to a trust than the Negro?" he asked as if in reminiscence.

Born in Panama some 46 years ago, Mr. Bermudez when but a lad, joined the police force, serving as a uniformed policeman for three months before he was detailed to the plainclothes squad. Hard and difficult studies by correspondence in United States schools of crime detection, investigation and methods, gained for him steady promotion until at the age of 27, and with less than 13 years as a career investigator, he was appointed captain and chief of the department of criminal investigation for Panama.

Politics and persecution, according to Mr. Bermudez, substantiated by certain subsequent disclosures forced his leaving Panama for Costa Rica. In this haven, the ambitious youth studied law and was later admitted to practice before the supreme court of the Land of the Ticos." Shortly after his administration to the bar, Lawyer Bermudez had a dispute with

# A Glimpse at Social Life in the Bahama Islands

he late Commissioner Bryant of INIA fame and in defense of his honor, shot the man and killed him.

Though sad was the incident, it proved a stepping stone for the young lawyer's success in his chosen profession. For two years, from 1926 when the shooting occurred until 1928 when he was arraigned before the three judges of the supreme court in San Jose, Mr. Bermudez who had been little known in the capital, prepared his defense. Appearing before the court, he elected to defend himself, reluctant to entrust his liberty into the hands of the leading criminal lawyer of the country, a white man.

"For psychological and sociological reasons and not from conceit, I decided to defend myself before the courts. Not because I feared I would have been sold by the lawyer who later was to become one of my most cherished friends, but because I felt that there were certain angles to the case that I, and alone could present to the learned judges. That I was successful and completely exonerated by the unanimous vote of the court after my three day defense, is sufficient indication for what, in some quarters was regarded as a foolish move with conceit," he explained.

Acquitted of the charge, Bermudez was catapulted into the foremost ranks of criminal lawyers, his success in this field only lightly overshadowed by his aptitude as a crime investigator and undercover man.

Two years after leaving Panama, Mr. Bermudez was called upon to organize several police departments in Columbia, so far had spread his fame. In 1928 he did similar service for the Costa Rica government. It was during this time that he was appointed special agent for the United Fruit company, then under the management of M. M. Marsh, and special investigator for the president of Costa Rica.

In 1937, Mr. Bermudez, to bring the Costa Rican military police force up to standard according to American principles, reorganized the department.



"BRONDOG," LOWER LEFT, is the palatial residence of Thaddeus Augustus Toote and Mrs. Clarita Catherine Toote at Nassau, Bahamas Islands. Mr. Toote, a barrister who received his college and legal training in England, is a member of the Board of Education, the Telephone Board, the Electrical Board, and a member of a number of other important commissions in the Bahamas.

A former member of the legislative assembly, Mr. Toote has frequently been sponsor for the delegations of crack tennis players which have attended National Tennis Tournaments in this country.

Mr. and Mrs. Toote are leaders in the social life characteristic of Nassau, famed as a winter resort. Pictured above may be seen a group gathered in the garden of the home after a dinner in honor of Miss Etta Moten, concert and radio celebrity, a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Toote, last week.

Left to right, top row: Mrs. Marguerite Kerr, Mrs. Toote, Miss Moten, Mr. Toote, and Miss Effie North.

Kneeling: Etienne Dupuch, Member, House Assembly, editor and proprietor, Nassau Daily Tribune, the island's leading newspaper; Miss Alice Hill and Dr. G. S. Worrell, J. P.; Bottom row: Mrs. Orville de Gregory Lampkin, Miss Dorothy de Gregory, Mrs. S. A. Eldon, and Kava Eldon.

# Defends Transfer Of British Islands To The United States

See Reforms in B. W. I.  
In Windsor Appointment

NEW YORK—(SNS)— Declaring that one cannot hold up the British flag in one hand and eat bread in the United States with the other, Ashley L. Totten, International Secretary-Treasurer of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and President of the Virgin Islands Civic Association, defended his position in favor of the proposed transfer of the Caribbean Islands to the United States at a symposium held last night at St. Ambrose Episcopal church, 9 West 130th Street.

Other speakers were Rev. E. E. Durant, Rector of the church, who spoke for the retention of the present colonial government and attorney Hope Stevens, General Secretary of the Caribbean Union, who suggested self-government as a remedy for the economic conditions in the Islands.

Totten pointed out that the native people in the islands were working people, interested in the things that satisfy human wants,— food, clothing and shelter, and that they could not secure these needs without an opportunity to work.

"I came to this country when my island home was under the Danish

## Native Asserts Inhabitants Are Favoring Plan

regime because I could not make a living there. I love my native home, just as every British West Indian loves the land of his birth, but my patriotism is for the United States because I can live here," said he.

In sharp contrast to one of the speakers who preceded him, Totten said that since the Virgin Islands came into American ownership, Negroes are holding high official positions in every department, but instead of being honored by high sounding titles, such as Sir or Knight Commander of the Bath, they receive high salaries.

(Photo on Page 3)

By PHILIP FRANCIS

The appointment of the Duke of Windsor, the former King Edward VIII, as governor-general of the Bahama Islands, according to well informed observers, may forecast empire developments of an unexpected nature in the West Indies. Already, it is believed that this far-reaching move is Britain's answer to the proposals and demands by American politicians, leaders and publicists that America take over, by negotiation or grab, the Caribbean possessions of the European powers.

The selection of Windsor, the British royal family and elder highest ranking member of the brother of the reigning sovereign is more than an attempt to find active employment for a restless and dynamic man, or to place a former monarch, whose presence in England may incite his friends to advocate or take steps to achieve his restoration to the throne.

### Notes His Character

Those who have watched the career of this young member of the royal family know that he is a man of his word and that disloyalty and perfidy are not characteristic of him. They know, too, that he is regarded in England as a humanitarian and progressive ruler, who possesses strong will and straight-forward convictions. They see in his appointment, the promise of great things for the West Indies.

Bearing in mind that the various sections of the British Empire have become more important to the Mother Country since the war with Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini, and that although small in area and population, the West Indies produce oil, asphalt, bauxite, gold, silver, lumber, sugar, rum and other natural and mineral resources, it would be somewhat naive to believe that a former British king as governor of a relatively unimportant outpost of the empire was without significance and meaning.

### Commissions Have Been Many

Five commissions have been sent from England to investi-

gate and report on economic, political and social conditions in the West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras since 1920. Their appointments have always resulted from some disturbance, especially the West Indies Royal Commission which was selected with care and charged with the responsibility of studying economic and social conditions and recommending ways and means of their improvement.

The commission was named because of the workers' riots and police massacres of striking laborers in Barbados, Trinidad and Jamaica in 1937 and 1938. Discontent has been rife in the islands for half a century.

The plain truth of the matter is: The British Government, in attempting to carry out its large scale reforms in the West Indies as recommended by the Royal Commission, with the expenditure of more than \$100,000,000 over a ten-year period, has decided to bring the West Indies up to the mark of a civilized country. It is possible that the Duke of Windsor has been selected as the only man who can carry out the reforms of federation and social reconstruction in the West Indies.

It is important to note that the Duke has been named to a post in a colony geographically outside the West Indies, but nevertheless near enough to make his influence felt in the neighboring islands and colonies. This strategy of location is rather significant, because federation is a tender plant in the West Indies and must be nurtured with care. The several islands, Jamaica, Trinidad, Bar-

bados, Grenada, St. Lucia, Antigua and Dominica, must not be offended, if the scheme is to be successful. Hence the residence of the man to achieve the almost impossible should be away from the jealousies and contentions of the rival factions.

In the meantime, the drive of the West Indies National Emergency Committee, a local group, sponsored by so-called progressives, which is demanding the "rights of the Caribbean peoples to self-determination and self-government" is likely to hit a snag. The belief of some factions within the committee that the reformers have taken too much for granted in forecasting the destruction of the British Empire may prove valid.

Whatever happens, the presence of the Duke of Windsor in the West Indies is more than likely to inspire, if not effect, fundamental reforms.

# Bahamas Paint Duke's House, Hope He'll Be Nice To Tourists

By FRED L. STROZIER  
Associated Press Staff Correspondent  
NASSAU, BAHAMAS, July 26.—  
Englishmen agree that the most effective job the Duke of Windsor can do in his new post as governor of the Bahamas will be to cement relations between the United States and Great Britain.

It is not known how extensive his travels in the United States will be, but officials say he will fly to Miami, only 100 miles away, and to Palm Beach to take part in the winter activities.

The residents still consider appointment of the Duke the most exciting thing since Columbus discovered the New World at the tiny island of San Salvador in 1492.

For days before the appointment was announced July 9, there was speculation about the successor to Sir Charles Dundas, but none of it ever soared to such heights as supposing that Edward and Wallis would occupy Government House.

Even Sir Charles, who normally would have filled out a five-year term some two years hence, was taken completely by surprise. He gracefully accepted the fact that his transfer to Uganda Protectorate in British West Africa was necessary to make way for the Duke here. But there is no doubt among the islanders that he would have preferred to finish off his official duties here, then retire from the service.

These tradition-loving Britishers are frankly upset, the chief reason is that they can find no precedent on which to base their conduct toward Edward, the first Royal Duke ever appointed to govern a mere colony.

## Want Him to Lure Tourists

They are not so sure how extensively Edward and Wallis will mix with wealthy Americans and Canadians in the colony and how democratically they will meet tourist and resident public.

Actually the islands now exist for the trade they draw from the very rich who have built homes in the income tax-free colony and from the not-so-rich who come by the thousands on cruise ships and clipper planes for tourist sight-seeing among the historic islands.

At this season of the year, the Duke and Duchess will find a sleepy existence. The little shops that border the narrow main streets close for a two-hour lunch and siesta during the hot tropic noontime. Business closes tight on Friday afternoons and all day Sunday, when all but emergency trade is illegal.

The drop in summer tourists—extremely sparse since the war started—has a little choice but to ride about the islands on bicycles or in ancient horse-drawn hacks, visit 200-year-old Fort Charlotte and gape at the closed and shuttered homes of

wealthy residents or swim at one of the many fine beaches on the island.

To the most casual visitor, conditions everywhere emphasize the strange contrasts to which the Duke and Duchess will be treated.

Government House itself, in which they will reside, is not sumptuous. It compares neither in size nor structure with scores of estates built by wealthy winter residents. It is situated on a hill that separates the business district from the cheapest native residential area and is miles from the best homes that occupy the eastern and western ends of New Providence Island.

Money is being appropriated to renovate the executive mansion, but the amount will permit little more than a new coat of paint, a few much-needed repairs and a small additional structure to house the Duke's aide de camp.

The door of the Duke's official residence will be guarded by a lone negro sentry, dressed in the white jacket and white pith helmet of the native constabulary—only uniformed force in the islands.

## Just a Dozen Servants

The new governor's domestic staff—cooks, butler, chauffeurs, and all others—won't exceed a dozen, most of them native. (Sir Charles and Lady Dundas get along on six).

The Duke's secretarial staff will consist of perhaps one officer and a couple of stenographers.

Aside from the social life he may select, the Duke's official duties will not be onerous, although he will have more extensive power relatively in some particulars than the King is entitled to exercise.

Under the unwritten constitution, he may veto any legislation enacted by the colonial assembly (equivalent to the House of Commons) and the legislative council (equivalent to the House of Lords). He will fill vacancies on the council. He may dissolve the assembly and force general elections, just as King George VI may dissolve Commons on advice of his prime minister. The Duke will administer all laws through his colonial staff.

# CLAIMS BRITAIN AIMS AT DOMINION STATUS IN THE WEST INDIES

Courier 8-3-40  
Duke of Windsor, as Governor-General, to Undertake  
Big Task.

Pittsburgh, Pa.  
NASSAU, Bahamas, Aug. 1—(ANP)—Reliable sources here his week insisted there is special significance attached to the recent appointment of the Duke of Windsor, former King of England, as governor-general of the Bahamas.

The rumor is gaining credence that Great Britain aims to unify all of her West Indies possessions under guidance of the former ruler. Bahamians declare the title "Governor" is used generally for the ruler of a colony such as the Bahamas, but that the more impressive "Governor-General" is reserved for rulers of dominions, such as Canada, South Africa and Australia.

In the West Indies area there are eleven British colonies with combined population of about three million. They include the Bahamas, Bermuda, Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, British Guiana, Windward and Leeward Islands, and British Honduras. Population of the Bahamas is about 68,000.

Local residents however, said the job of unifying all the Island groups is a particularly hard one, because each group has its own dialect, culture and customs, and many believe that real coordination of the various segments is next to impossible.



[Associated Press Wirephoto.]

A native Bahama child presenting a bouquet to the duchess of Windsor in Nassau as the duke looks on. The presentation was part of a reception of natives by the new governor.

## New Cuban Constitution Prohibits Discrimination Because of Color or Class

Adopted By A Constituent Assembly After Five  
Months of Bitter Debates

### Will Aid People In Economic Struggle

OCT 19 1940

HAVANA, Cuba.—(ANP)—Second only in interest here and throughout Cuba to the inauguration of the popular president-elect, Col. Fulgencio Batista as head of this island republic, is the adoption of the new constitution which not only extends the rights of the people, but aids them materially in their economic by American interests, \$600,000-struggle for the necessities of 000 has been spent in the development of the sugar industry.

Adopted by a Constituent Assembly, after five months of bitter partisan fights and debates, a main provision of this new charter of Cuban liberty guarantees that:

"Every discrimination because of race, sex, color, class or any other thing harmful to human dignity is illegal and punishable."

President Batista, who as a youth was a railroad worker, began his meteoric career, when, as a sergeant in Cuba's army, he led the revolt against President Carlos de Céspedes in 1933. As a result he became one of the nation's bigwigs, and in turn became head of the Cuban army and Island dictator. The presidency is Col. Batista's first elective position.

During his four years' service as army head he built more than 1,200 schools in rural and urban districts, has reduced thereby the country's high illiteracy percentage, and one of his first promises as president is that the school building program will be extended.

Cuba has 4,100,000 population, is a country rich in natural resources, its fertile soil capable of producing three crops a year, enough, according to estimates, to feed ten million people. But foreign capitalists, eyeing big sugar profits, have made Cuba almost a one-crop nation. Of more than one billion dollars invested there

# U.S. May Seize West Indies If Nazis Crush Great Britian

NEW YORK, Aug. 22.—Thousands of West Indian residents here who face registration as aliens under the new defense legislation, were intensely interested in reports that the U.S. Navy is planning on seizing British, French and Dutch possessions in the Caribbean area if Britain succumbs to the Hitler blitzkrieg.

The reports were given credence last week by the announcement of Secretary of Navy Knox that such an action would be justified under the Monroe Doctrine. Discussing the situation Thursday, the secretary said:

"If the British fleet is defeated, destroyed or sunk, our first military interest is to seize any sites that could be used as bases within striking distances of us. We would be justified under the Monroe Doctrine to take possession of these islands."

Recent moves of the navy indicate that steps have already been taken to assure such action. The marines have recently organized six highly mobile battallions totaling 3,000 men and equipped with artillery, semi-automatic rifles, anti-aircraft guns, specially built tanks and landing boats. One of these units is stationed at Parris Island off South Carolina.



JUSTO SALES

Negro Mayor of Santiago de Cuba  
Cuba's second largest city

# Charge Almazan Conspired with Cuba Reactionaries During Visit There

By Alfred Miller

(Special to the Sunday Worker)

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 14.—porters quickly, the young Communist General Juan Andreu Almazan, a brief but extremely interesting picture of the recent elections in Mexico during his recent stay in Cuba and of the tremendous victory gained by the labor and progressive forces of the island Chamber of Representatives of country.

Cuba and General Secretary of "The elections developed in a the Cuban Communist Party, in an interview he gave newspaper-

men here. The famous Cuban labor leader, who is spending a brief vacation in this country, talked extensively about the present situation in Cuba which is at pre-Dr. Grau San Martin, with 200,000 sent, he said, "and the prospects seem worse."

"When Batista takes power on October 10 he will encounter the numerous difficulties," Blas Roca said. "Cuban economy feels the repercussions due to the development of the war and also the effort of a Chamber of 162 members of certain reactionary forces belong to the parties opposing to draw the entire Continent into Batista."

this conflagration. That is why the situation is bad and the prospects seem worse."

Answering the questions of reporters quickly, the young Communist General Almazan, a brief but extremely interesting picture of the recent elections in Mexico during his recent stay in Cuba and of the tremendous victory gained by the labor and progressive forces of the island Chamber of Representatives of country.

"The elections developed in a the Cuban Communist Party, in an interview he gave newspaper-

men here. The famous Cuban labor leader, who is spending a brief vacation in this country, talked extensively about the present situation in Cuba which is at pre-Dr. Grau San Martin, with 200,000 sent, he said, "and the prospects seem worse."

Asked about the voting strength of his own, the Communist Party, the young General secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba declared:

"The Party Union Revolucionaria Comunista (PURC), a coalition between the Communist Party of Cuba and the Union Revolucionaria, obtained nine seats in the Chamber. Besides myself, Lazaro Pena, the general secretary of the Confederation of Workers of Cuba (CTC) and seven other workers were elected representatives. We also elected 82 aldermen and two municipal presidents. Our entire vote totaled 80,000 for representatives and 100,000 in the municipal elections."

"The second city of the island, Santiago de Cuba, has now a Negro as municipal president," he emphasized proudly. "And it was our Party which aided him and made him victorious."

"This is very important," he told Mexican reporters, "because in Cuba there exists a strong discrimination against Negroes

and the principal positions are foretold traditionally occupied by whites."

Speaking of the Communist Party secretary declared that they belong to any political party. He was supported and led to victory by a coalition of parties of very distinct ideologies, the program presented by Batista accepted the cooperation of the left wing parties including the peasants, the Negroes, the small industrialists and the small farmers and which stands for the development of industry and our own economy and for all those means to assure national independence."

Blas Roca, characterized the Partido Revolucionario Cubano of Grau San Martin as an organization born in the revolution against Machado, which at many times has been in the vanguard, but whose present leadership definitely has a reactionary tendency.

"It is entirely possible," he continued, "that the present alignments of the parties supporting Batista as well as Grau will not be maintained for long in the Chamber itself."

The progressive legislators of both groups will unite in support of the popular program presented by Batista, he said.

SEP 15 1940

Blas Roca, characterized the Partido Revolucionario Cubano of Grau San Martin as an organization born in the revolution against Machado, which at many times has been in the vanguard, but whose present leadership definitely has a reactionary tendency.

Cuba is strongly under the impression, he informed Mexican public opinion, that the reactionary forces of this country, aided by foreign imperialist groups, are preparing an armed rising to halt Mexican progress and advance, particularly developed under the administration of President Cardenas."

"I am of the opinion, however, that this maneuver will fail due to the strenght of the progressive groups in Mexico," he said.

Roca charged that "Almazan, during his recent stay at Havana conspired against Mexico. He had frequent meetings with certain reactionary Cuban politicians like general Mario Menocal and some foreign consuls, including those from Peru and Brazil." Representative Roca pointed out. "Naturally, he tried to keep his conspirative activities as much of a secret as possible."

Asked whether Almazan, who was in Cuba during the Havana conference, had an interview with U. S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull, the Communist Leader replied: "It was quite possible for both Hull and Almazan were guests in the same Hotel, the Hotel Nacional."

Almazan was not at all well received by the Cuban people, Blas Roca said.

# Bringing the West Indies Under Our Flag

DEC 14 1940

Not many years ago, Herbert Hoover, when President of the United States, spoke disdainfully of the Virgin Islands as a poor house.

Today we are not only happy to own the islands for which we paid the measly sum of \$25,000,000 but we may begin bargaining any day for British real estate in the West Indies, including the Bahamas, Barbados, Trinidad, and the Windward and Leeward Islands.

Exploited for 300 years, none of these islands is an asset economically, but for frontier air-plane bases to protect our coast and the Panama Canal, they are of tremendous value.

Great Britain already owes us three and one-half billion dollars, and in present straitened circumstances wants to borrow more. We'd lend, too, if it were not for the Johnson Act forbidding loans to countries which owe us already.

But nothing in the Johnson Act says we can't trade war equipment for the West Indies, and the way things are going, that wouldn't be a bad bargain.

SEP 15 1940

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## STORIED HAVEN for REFUGEES

**S**TORIED Hispaniola, that mountain-spined Caribbean isle of conquistadores and buccaneers, of Negro tyrants and voodoo priests, opens a new chapter by becoming a haven for oppressed Europeans. The Dominican Republic, which occupies two-thirds of the island, the other third being Haiti—recently agreed to the settlement of 500 refugee families from Germany and Poland within its confines, and these immigrants may be the forerunners of 100,000 more.

The newcomers will find a land very much as Columbus saw it in 1492 shortly after his epochal sighting of the New World. "Little Spain," he called it, and wrote:

It is a marvel; the mountains and hills, and plains, and fields, and the soil so beautiful and rich for planting and sowing, for breeding cattle of all sorts, for building towns and villages . . . There are wonderful pine groves and very large plains of verdure, and there is honey and many kinds of birds and great diversity of fruit.

Four centuries later the land still amazes the visitor with its richness and variety, ranging from tropical jungle to cool and arid upland. Well-watered plains and valleys, some with surface loam of 9-foot depth, nourish the breadfruit, banana and orange and seventy other food plants. Sugar cane, coffee and cotton plantations abound. Trays of cacao beans dry in the sun. On the slopes grow mahogany, logwood, lignumvitae, fan palms and royal palms, while up toward the 10,000-foot level stand forests of bracing pine. There are dry plateaus, where cacti flourish.

As sharply contrasting as the land are the two peoples of Hispaniola between whom lies an old enmity which flared up late in 1927 when thousands of Haitian



Along the Dominican coast.

squatters were killed and driven out of the Dominican Republic. The olive-skinned Dominicans are outnumbered, 3,000,000 to 1,500,000, by the black and mulatto Haitians. They are mostly of Spanish blood, with slight Indian and Negro strains, and speak classic Castilian or a somewhat corrupt dialect. The Haitians are of African and French ancestry, their small well-educated class speaking French, while their illiterate peasantry uses a Creole speech.

**L**IKE its land and people, Hispaniola's past is full of striking contrasts. The early Spaniards used the island as a base for administering the New World. Columbus's descendants established an ancestral home in Santo Domingo City—now Ciudad Trujillo, after the present Dominican dictator—where the Great Discoverer's remains are entombed. Around 1630 the French seized the island, holding possession until Hispaniola's slaves set up an independent nation in 1804. Forty years later the Spanish-speaking element in the eastern end of the island established the Dominican Republic.

## DOMINICAN ACCORD ON REFUGEES NEAR

Settlement Pact Is Ready for  
Legislative Ratification,  
Rosenberg Reports

*Times*  
DETAILS OF TRACT GIVEN  
2-12-40  
25,000 Acres Declared to Have  
Advantages for Growing  
Wide Range of Crops

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES  
SAN JUAN, P. R., Feb. 11—The next step in the plan to settle European refugees in the Dominican Republic will be the submission to the Dominican Congress for ratification of an agreement already signed by representatives of the government and the Dominican Republic Settlement Association, according to James N. Rosenberg of New York, president of the association. Mr. Rosenberg is returning to New York after a month in Santo Domingo as the guest of General Rafael Trujillo.

The association also must ratify the agreement, according to Mr. Rosenberg, before the formal transfer to the association of the 25,000-acre tract at Sosua which is offered as a personal gift from General Trujillo.

Although the Dominican Republic has no income or property taxes, Mr. Rosenberg declared, the association would be specifically exempt by legislation from all taxation so long as it refrains from engaging in any commercial or competitive enterprise. Refugees will be exempt from import duties on household goods and agricultural equipment.

Assuming that there would be a speedy conclusion of all legal formalities, Mr. Rosenberg stated, every effort would be made to select the first few hundred refugee families in time for settlement on the new land this Spring.

"From what I've seen of the great progress in the Dominican Republic in the past ten years in schools, roads, irrigation and bridges and harbor improvements," he went on, "I am convinced that the settlers will not suffer from discrimination and that they will have a just and equal opportunity to pursue their

occupations and lives free from molestations and persecutions. The refugees will not find paradise awaiting them, but they will find excellent land, most favorable climate and every element necessary which, with industry and well-directed effort, can be converted into paradise."

The Sosua property formerly belonged to the United Fruit Company, which abandoned it about fifteen years ago because it was found unsuitable for commercial banana culture. Experts held that this did not limit the land's opportunities for successful cultivation of subsistence crops, Mr. Rosenberg asserted. He said that one of the Sosua buildings was sufficiently large to be used as headquarters for the settlement management.

The 25,000-acre tract, he added, extended from the ocean to the mountains and had several thousand acres of rolling pasture land and different elevations indicating suitability for varied crops. The ocean front, he said, had a long beach as beautiful as any he had ever seen and a partially protected bay which might be developed for port purposes. The land lies within twelve kilometers of Puerto Plata, the chief Atlantic port on the northern coast of the Dominican Republic.

## British To Bolster W. Indies

*Continued*  
Economic Life  
2-25-40  
In West Indies  
To Be Bolstered

LONDON—(AP)—A far-reaching program to be financed by the British Government and aimed at bolstering the industrial and economic life of the British West Indies, was announced on Tuesday by Government officials.

The decision to aid the West Indies followed submission of the report of the royal commission under Lord Moyne, which was sent to the Island colony to study labor and economic problems. The in-

vestigating body advised the enactment of laws to protect trades unions for suits for damages resulting from strikes, legalization of peaceful picketing, compulsory registration of trades unions and audit of union funds.

The commission also recommended creation of wage boards and establishment of an industrial court for the West Indies as a whole. It also urged an increase in the sugar export quota, and imposition of a levy of 40 cents per ton of sugar, to finance welfare programs of benefit to the general public.

Extending over 20 years the British plan will cost about 80 million dollars and authority to administer the fund will rest with a central organization set up in the West Indies. The money will be used to finance education, health services, slum clearance and housing and to improve the conditions of farmers. An inspector general will direct the agricultural program.

The commission was sent to investigate conditions in the Island colony after a series of strikes and riots on plantations had focused attention on the bad housing situation, the exploitation of low-paid labor and the need for strengthening the islands' financial resources.

It is being freely stated in private by responsible people in Washington that in the event of a Nazi invasion of Holland, the United States Marines will immediately be landed on the Dutch West Indian Islands, Aruba and Curaçoa, largely inhabited by Negroes.

It is not unlikely that in the event of an Allied defeat the United States will promptly occupy all French and British West Indian possessions, and perhaps New Foundland. Two million Negroes are in these lands.

This step would be logical because it is evident from a reading of history that this country will not permit militantly hostile nations to gain a foothold within striking distance of the U.S. mainland, shipping channels or the Panama Canal.

Air warfare has greatly increased the danger from enemy attacks and no alert nation can permit a potential enemy to establish bases from which effective bombing attacks might be launched.

The hustling to the United States of the huge steamship Queen Elizabeth before it was finished would seem to indicate that the British are none too sure about the outcome of the war, and no objective observer can deny that the outlook for the Rome-Berlin-Moscow-Tokio bloc seems brighter than our pro-Ally daily press would have us believe.

Already it is being solemnly declared by American military experts that we need more island outposts to control all passages into the Caribbean Sea in order to thoroughly screen the Panama Canal entrance.

The chances of the West Indian islands coming under the Stars and Stripes are thus far from remote. Whether this will be a blessing or a calamity only time will tell. Certainly the experience of the Virgin Islands has not been unhappy.

Economically, the Negroes in the West Indies could not be worse off than they are at present. Politically, U.S. rule would make little difference.

## Dominican President Dies After Operation

WASHINGTON  
The Dominican Legation announced early this week that Dr. J. B. Peynado, president of the republic, died in Santo Domingo City Thursday night, at the age of sixty-two.

He had been ill for several months and underwent an operation earlier in the week.

Dr. Peynado was elected for a four-year term in August, 1938. Dr. M. J. Troncoso de la Concha, vice-president, was sworn in on Friday as president, at which time messages of condolence from President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Secretary of State Cordell Hull were read.

Dr. Peynado is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mercedes Peynado, and four daughters and one son.

## Nine Jamaican Lawmakers Walk Out Of Council

KINGSTON, April 19—When his excellency the governor Sir Arthur Richards was president of the legislative council invoked the Paramountcy clause at a point of the session of the council, nine of the 12 elected members present walked out and refused to attend the session of the council in protest.

The situation arose when elected members vetoed government's proposal to retain the services of C. R. Howie, English income tax expert for a longer period than two years, as was originally decided upon.

The governor exercised the Paramountcy clause saying his duty was to protect the welfare of the colony. When vote for income tax department came before the council subsequently, the nine elected members withdrew from the house leaving government members to carry the issue themselves.

In appreciation of the action taken by the nine elected members who walked out of the council over the income tax matter they were made honored guests at a public meeting arranged by a body of public spirited individuals at the Ward theatre, Wednesday, April 10.

Monroe Doctrine.

Therefore, America needs a navy and fleets of fighting planes second to none in the world if the Monroe Doctrine is to be other than mere words. Has America such a force? Answer: She has fighting ships enough only for the Pacific. And this fleet is now stationed there to keep Japan from grabbing the rich Dutch East Indies, not to mention the Philippines. And as for battle-planes, America's air fleet would probably not make a better showing than Poland's. Since, therefore, America's fleet is in the Pacific, it means that the Atlantic coast which lies on Hitler's side of the world is undefended!

From a naval point of view, America is like the proverbial one-armed man with the hives.

**Pan-American Union May Fold**

What of the other nations of the New World? Are they well-armed? The only one that has a fleet worth mentioning at all is Brazil, and her's is very small. They, also, have almost no planes to speak of.

The next question is: are the other American nations united in favor of the Monroe Doctrine? Well, there is a Pan-American union but its solidarity has yet to be tested. And most of the Latin-American nations are also bossed by dictators, therefore they cannot necessarily be considered as being hostile to the success of dictators.

As for Fifth Columns, South America is the very home of them. Chile is almost practically Nazi. Its army, like that of Bolivia, and one or two others, was drilled by Germans. Southern Brazil is honey-combed with Italian Fascists, and a very warm friendship is said to exist between President Vargas of Brazil and Mussolini. When Vargas' son was returning from Europe the other day, it was Bruno Mussolini who flew him back.

**Fascism Strong South of the Border**

Nazi influence is also strong in the region of the Panama Canal. In short, it looks like the Fascists would have little trouble in getting a hold in South America, especially if they are able to control trade in Europe and bring South America business.

Now a glance at Africa to see how all this ties up with the West Indies. The nearest point in Africa to the New World is Senegal, which is only 1,500 miles away. Senegal is also a French colony. If Hitler forces France to hand this over, he will be in easy striking distance of the West Indies.

**Hitler May Come Over**

Of course, his fleet like Mussolini's, is now bottled up by those of the French and British. But suppose Hitler demands that the

French fleet be handed over to him? In that case the combined French, German, and Italian fleets will be as strong as Britain's. And in planes the two dictator nations greatly exceed England! Suppose now in the coming death-struggle, England loses and is forced to hand over what remains of her navy? Hitler and Mussolini will have the largest navy in the world! And with America's fleet in the Pacific, theirs will be the only one in the Atlantic. In short, if England loses, which is most possible, what is there to prevent Hitler from seizing not only the French West Indies but the British ones as well? They are of high strategic value for the Panama Canal. If and when he does, Hitler will be knocking on our front door with the butt of his German pistol!

## MAY FORCE FRENCH TO GIVE UP ISLANDS

By J. A. ROGERS

France has surrendered to Germany. What will become of the French West Indies? Will Germany seize them?

In the last war, the Allies made Germany hand over all her colonies to them. A ruthless Hitler may be counted on to exact the last ounce of flesh.

The French West Indian colonies are Martinique, Guadeloupe, and French Guiana. They have a total area of 45,000 square miles and a combined population of a little more than a half million. Guiana is rich in gold and timber. Martinique and Guadeloupe with a

total area of 1,073 square miles are only agricultural and are rather poor. At best, the French West Indian colonies would be very poor pickings.

**Under the Monroe Doctrine**

BUT like all other territory in the New World these French possessions are protected by the Monroe Doctrine which says "Hands off," to all European and Asiatic powers. In other words, America has pledged herself to fight to protect them.

Thus the Monroe doctrine is the tallest possible order that any one nation could assign to itself. From Alaska to Cape Horn are some 20,000 or more miles of coast. On the Atlantic side are 40,000 miles or more which are also included in the

RACE PROBLEM- 1940  
WEST INDIES

# Judge Moore Hands Down His First day Of Death Sentence In Virgin Islandsack Patriot

FEDERIKSTED, St. Croix, V. I., April 19—(ANP)—Last Thursday, in the crowded district court here, Federal Judge Herman E. Moore, for the first time since his elevation to the federal bench, inflicted the death sentence in a first degree murder case.

A former lawyer of Chicago and member of the Illinois Commerce Commission, Judge Moore was appointed last winter by President Roosevelt.

The jurist inflicted the extreme penalty on Benjamin Knight, convicted of slaying Henry James, after a motion for a new trial had been overruled by the court. The slain man's wife, Alberta James, also held in connection with the case, was ordered released on the ground of insufficient evidence.

Knight's only hope to escape the gallows now lies in an appeal filed to the third circuit court of appeals. He will remain in custody of police up to June 17, the execution date, awaiting action by the higher court.

Calling the convicted man to the stand, Judge Moore pronounced sentence with this statement:

"You have been found guilty by a jury of the crime of murder in the first degree, and the recommendation of the jury is that your punishment be fixed at death. Considering the finding of the jury and the recommendation thereof and in accordance with that verdict, this court now finds you guilty of the crime of first degree murder, and fixes your punishment to be executed on the 17th day of June, A.D., between the hours of sunrise and sunset, and in accordance with the statute in such cases made and provided

"It is the order of this court, however, in accordance with the statutes of this municipality that the above sentence be stayed in order that your case may be reviewed by the Circuit Court of Appeals, and it is, therefore, ordered that this sentence be not executed until re-

viewed by that court, and until the further order of this court."

## Senators Oppose Plan To Grab Caribbean Islands

### Senators Warn On U.S. Taking Over 'Foreign Islands'

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—Continued and spirited opposition is developing here to the proposal that the United States take forcible possession of islands in this hemisphere owned by foreign countries.

Proponents of the seizure plan are headed by Senator Robert R. Reynolds (D.) of North Carolina and Ernest Lundeen (Farmer-Labor) of Minnesota. Senators leading the opposition forces are led by Senators Elbert D. Thomas and Lewis B. Schwellenbach, members of the foreign relations committee.

The territories involved are the French, Dutch and British islands in the Caribbean and the Atlantic. Lundeen said that acquisition of these islands and of Greenland were necessary to strengthen the U. S. national defense. For similar reasons Senator Reynolds advocates the placing under U. S. control of Cocco island, now owned by Costa Rica and the Galapagos Islands, in the Pacific, owned by Ecuador.

Schwellenbach said he favored acquisition of strategic islands in the western hemisphere "by honorable negotiation," but said he disapproved with Lundeen's proposal to acquire the islands by force.

"For us to take advantage of England's and France's temporary occupation in war elsewhere would be sneaking, and would cause people everywhere to loathe and despise us," he declared.

"Certainly we do not wish to handicap our efforts in the establishment of a lasting peace by thus losing the respect of the other nations of the world."

WASHINGTON, April 28 (UP).—Senators Elbert D. Thomas and Lewis B. Schwellenbach, members of the Foreign Relations Committee, tonight warned against any action by the United States to take forcible possession of islands in this hemisphere owned by foreign governments.

Acquisition of French, British and Dutch islands in the Caribbean and Atlantic was urged by Senators Robert T. Reynolds, D., N. C., and Ernest Lundeen, F.-L., Minn., who participated with Schwellenbach and Thomas in a radio forum on American foreign policy.

"Europe owes us \$14,500,000,000," Lundeen said, "in the interest and welfare of the American people who now are paying four per cent interest on the war loans to Europe, our government should begin negotiations for the acquisition of these islands as part payment of the war debts."

"The possession of American land by foreign countries is a violation of the spirit of the Monroe Doctrine. We must pursue a foreign policy which will separate America from the quarrels and boundary disputes of Europe."

Schwellenbach said he favored acquisition of strategic islands in the Western hemisphere "by honorable negotiation," but said he disagreed with Lundeen's proposal to acquire the islands by force.

By JACK PELAYO  
February 22 is a patriot's birthday in America when all Americans honor George Washington, the father of their country.

Very few American Negroes know, however, that during the same week—February 24—Cubans celebrate the black father of their country—Antonio Maceo—who has been called by Carleton Beals "a handsome black fellow with a King George beard" and whose statue is now in Havana Harbor.

It was on February 24, 1895 that Maceo, "The Lion," and his friend Gomez, "The Fox," started the Cuban War for independence which finally became the Spanish American War in which so many of our own American Negroes fought.

Maceo had been exiled by the Spaniards, but finally managed to come back home to lead his people in the fight against the Spanish tyrants.

The Spanish pursued him all over the island and he had to live on sour oranges and bananas, until finally the Cubans rallied to him in the little town of Baire under the "gigantic black General Guillermo Moncada of unbelievable bravery."

Beales, in the "Crime of Cuba" states that "He finally took charge of a little band in an unrelenting struggle against unbelievable odds—until shot, December 7, 1897, too soon to witness the final triumph of his cause, but long enough to stamp him the greatest military leader in Cuba's history."

Fought Without Guns  
Without uniforms, almost without weapons, fighting with their machetes with which they cut cane, they fought on for the ideals of liberty proclaimed by the two blacks—Gomez and Maceo—a "brotherly love message which embraced all Cubans whatever their race and creed in a crusade against the Spaniards—without bitterness for

the Spaniards . . . only sympathy for the soldiers of Spain torn from their homes . . . to assassinate the sons of a liberty for which they also aspired."

Then the Yanks Came  
Little Cuba would have been unable to secure her freedom alone, for Spain massed all her might to crush these Negroes of Latin America. They set up the first concentration camps in history, General Weyler's famous "campo de concentracion."

America Enters War  
In February 1897—two years after the revolt began, the "Maine" was blown up in Havana harbor and a few months later America entered the war. After the heroic battles at Santiago, and San Juan Hill where American Negroes died beside their Cuban brothers, Cuba was freed from Spain.

America assumed a protectorate over Cuba with the agreement that she was to be later made independent. Today Cuba is free—freed by a black man Maceo, and ruled by another Negro, Batista.

Last week there were parades and parties, displays of the army and speeches, all in honor of Maceo, "The Lion"—who began to liberate Cuba on February 24 and was shot less than a year later, while reviewing his troops.

Tries To Save Body  
"His men got his 210-pound body onto a horse; the animal was shot down; they were dispersed. His aide, young Francisco Gomez . . . though himself wounded, his arm in a sling—braved enemy fire to drag the corpse off. He and another officer finally tied it to the tail of a mare; an enemy volley killed this animal also. In the face of whistling bullets, though given superior orders to retire, Gomez still persisted in trying to save the body. Shot through the chest he fell over Maceo's corpse groaning in death."

Built Monument  
Thus does Carleton Beals describe the death of the man whom Weyler, his greatest enemy said to a "New York Herald" correspondent, "a valiant man, a fighter, indefatigable, tenacious."

"Later, free Cuba put up a lofty monument of marble and bronze to their Negro liberator; there he still rides on the Malecon, his back to the sea, his face toward the land he loved—Famous captain, blameless patriot, chief of the brave whose valor equalled their loyalty."

# Annexation Of West Indies Looms as President Ponders Air Menace Of Bombers

## Hostile Base In Bermuda Would Place Enemy 200 Minutes From Florida Coast

## Several of Islands Are Under-populated

By REGINALD PIERREPOINTE

NEW YORK.—(ANP)—Rapid developments in Europe brought the West Indian problem into the limelight again last week, when President Roosevelt, speaking before a joint session of congress, declared . . . "if Bermuda fell into hostile hands, it is a matter of less than three hours for

modern bombers to reach our South America. They embrace the shores. From a base in the outer Caribbean sea and lie outside the West Indies the coast of Florida can be reached in less than 200 minutes."

This problem is bound to become more and more important as the struggle in Europe becomes more intensified, and the Allies seek a way to gain American support.

Faced with the Johnson and Neutrality acts, it is only a matter of time when their ability to pay cash for American supplies will have reached the limit, and to they will be bound to make direct propositions for that support, so necessary to maintain their fighting forces.

With the unpaid debts of the last war amounting to \$5,500,000,000 still chalked up against them, it can hardly be expected for them to try to obtain credits for this one, unless there is an improbable understanding in high places, that the United States is willing to make unlimited gifts to warring European nations, and thereby become a non-belligerent partisan.

The only alternative is for the Allies to offer the United States something that she wants. And something that can stifle the conscience of the American people and erase the imperialistic repercussions that would be bound to develop among her South American neighbors.

That something is the West Indies, British, French and Dutch Guiana and Honduras.

The West Indies are a 1500-mile chain of islands stretching from the Bahamas off the coast of Florida to Trinidad and Barbados on the northern shores of

change in sovereignty is about to occur, a consultation meeting should be convoked in order to aid that region freely to determine its own political destiny.

"That it would be unjust to consider the American subjects of non-American nations simply as merchandise.

"That they should be given an opportunity to decide their own political destinies."

The resolution was regarded as consistent with President Roosevelt's previous warning to Germany: "That regardless of the outcome of the war in Europe, the United States would not tolerate any deals or carving up of territory in this hemisphere."

Adding further security to the region and its right to decide its own destiny, Undersecretary Sumner Welles, head of the United States delegation, proposed a 300-mile security belt and neutral zone for the entire Americas. The West Indies, of course, were well within this security belt.

But still no response came from the West Indian people. The political blindness forced upon them by Europe and the consequent widespread faith in the invincibility of their overlords remains steadfast.

From responsible sources it was learned that Foreign Secretary Hay had expected the West Indian people to show some signs of political consciousness. That would have given the 21 nations an opportunity to bring the Monroe Doctrine to their support, and the problem of bartering them for Europe's war needs would have been solved.

A few idealists are yet hopeful that the United States will have to insist on a plebiscite or referendum to save face, and placate her neighbors to the south who are suspicious of imperialistic designs.

But it is doubtful if any changes that is bound to result in the swapping of the islands for past and future debts can be dignified by any such democratic guise.

The only alternative for the people now, is to await the inevitable wave of "protection" that is bound to engulf them; experience the aftermath of violent change; the disillusionment of blind loyalty, and the servitude to new masters who might be forced to grant some semblance of autonomy to save their own faces.

# WEST INDIES LOOM AS VITAL FACTOR IF WAR COMES TO U.S.

## Negro Populated Island May Go to Country

NEW YORK, (By Reginald Pierrepoin for ANP)—Rapid developments in Europe brought the West Indian problem into the limelight again last week, when President Roosevelt, speaking before a joint session of congress, declared . . . "if Bermuda fell into hostile hands, it is a matter of less than three hours for modern bombers to reach our shores. From a base in the outer West Indies the coast of Florida can be reached in less than 200 minutes."

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The only alternative is for the Allies to offer the United States something that she wants. And something that can stifle the conscience of the American people and erase the imperialistic repercussions that would be bound to develop among her South American neighbors.

That something is the West Indies, British, French and Dutch Guiana and Honduras.

The West Indies are a 1500-mile chain of islands stretching from the Bahamas off the coast of Florida to Trinidad and Barbados on the Northern shores of South America. They embrace the Caribbean sea and lie outside the trade routes to the Panama canal.

Their total land area is about 12,237 square miles, with a population of nearly 3,000,000.

Offer Much To U.S.

Contrary to widespread belief, these islands and South and Central American territories, taken as a whole, are enormously wealthy in natural resources and except for Jamaica, Barbados and some of the smaller islands, they are underpopulated.

They are of no military value to their European owners, but to the Americas and to the United States in particular, their proximity to the Panama canal increases their intrinsic value enormously, and their European owners are well aware of that fact.

So these islands and territories are now the last cards left to play in getting the economic support that probably means life or death to the Allies.

A strange paradox is that while all the world understands the problem and its far-reaching consequences, the inhabitants of the area are blissfully unaware of it. It is amazing how the policy of their overlords has kept them so politically dumb.

Last year the Inter-American Consultation conference of 21 nations in Panama City passed a resolution submitted by Mexico's Foreign Secretary Eduardo Hay, that was calculated to spur them to some interest, but no response was evident.

The resolution stated: "Because of the war, some regions of America controlled by non-American states may cease depending on those countries.

"That if it appears that some change in sovereignty is about to occur, a consultation meeting should be convoked in order to aid that region freely to determine its own political destiny.

"That it would be unjust to consider the American subjects of non-American nations simply as merchandise.

"That they should be given an opportunity to decide their own political destinies."

# Council For Pan American Democracy to Oppose West Indies Transfer To the U. S. Southern Race Hatred Dominates Panama Canal Zone, But Negroes Are Loyal To American Government

Speakers To Include Max Yergan, Gardner Jackson, Hope R. Stephens, Donald McConnell

## Will Oppose Lindbergh Doctrine of Force

NEW YORK.—(ANP)—The Council for Pan American Democracy, from its offices at 100 Fifth Avenue, New York City, announced today that it is organizing a mass protest meeting to be held Friday evening at the Congress Casino, against the proposed transfer and sale of the Negro and other peoples inhabiting the European possessions of the Western Hemisphere.

Organizations sponsoring the meeting are the Caribbean union, Jamaica Progressive League, British Jamaicans Benevolent Association, Federation of Latin American Students, Mutualista Obrera Mexicana, and others.

Speakers will be Dr. Max Yergan, director of the Institute of African Affairs (chairman); Gardner Jackson, chairman of the Council for Pan American Democracy; Hope R. Stevens, executive committee member of the Caribbean union; and Professor Donald McConnell of New York university.

These proposals—and there are several of them pending in congress," said William Pickens, prominent Negro leader and executive committee member of the Pan American council, "are a gratuitous affront to the peoples of the West Indies, whom these congressmen and the big business interests for which they speak, would barter about as so much merchandise in callous disregard of their own will.

"Such measures," he continued, "cannot be reconciled with the democratic professions the Good Neighbor policy which originally raised the hopes of democracy and self-determination in

EDITOR'S NOTE: The writer, a newspaperman, relates his personal opinions, after visit to the Panama Canal, before and since the declaration of war in Europe last September.

(Concluded from last week)

By FLOYD G. SNELSON

AN INTERESTING STORY heard in the Canal Zone last summer gives witness to the loyalty and fortitude of the Negro laborers, who are well aware of the peril of warring nations against the safety of the canal.

As the Hamburg-American liner Wasgenland when thru Gatun Locks, a German messboy heaved overboard a package—and for a moment the tropic air was full of hysteria.

Soldiers and Negro workers in particular shouted. Bells rang. From the bottom of the lock chamber a special contrivance disgorged the package, which was opened amid intense silence. Then a gasped "Thank God" was the chorus of the black voices.

The package contained a flatiron which the messboy explained was his idea of a joke. The incident was a topic of discussion for some time.

How might enemies within the point of view that West Indian labor gates strike at the canal? That proved most satisfactorily in the long run, and renewed importations of the the favor—and grim—argument West Indians, who, if given credit, are just now in Panama's open air drink responsible for the success of the giant emporium, sidewalk cafes and balcony cocktail lounges.

Uncle Sam is already in an undeclared war against danger—that may cut this American lifeline.

Blackout experiments, gas masks, strict martial law, gadgets of protection, and secret maneuvers have been in progress from the beginning of hostilities in Europe, most of which are hardly observed outside military circles.

### West Indian Workers

When the U. S. took over the French Canal Company the question of labor was the first big problem, as just a few hundred men were on the job. By recruiting in the West Indies, the force was enlarged to 17,000 the first year. This not sufficient the Commission began systematically to recruit laborers from Europe, chiefly from Spain, and also contracted for several thousand Chinese from the Orient. A great outcry was raised in the U. S. and these plans were abandoned. The Spaniards who came to the Canal later rioted in revolt because of the shortage of the wine allowance which accompanied their meals, was finally cut off.

of the day to the version of this sort, chanted to a monotonous tone.

"Colonel's gone—gone to Balboa;  
Gone—in his—yellow motor car."

In addition to the chanteys there were a number of West Indian songs that came to the Isthmus with the laborers or else were conceived there. Chief of the most famous of these is: "Sly Mongoose." There was another "Money Grows like apples on trees, down in Panama," during the height of prosperity. One of the catchiest melodies was "Labor Train," which took the workers to and fro to work. "Ah, pour me one," is another which is still sung.

### Gold and Silver

It was customary during the Panama construction days that Negro laborers were usually paid in U. S. silver money and the white Americans in gold coin, which was probably natural in the days of the silver dollars and the 5s and 10s dollar gold pieces. Possibly for convenience.

It turned out that the blacks were referred to as the silver and the whites as gold. This resulted in such a manner that concerns, establishment and business transactions catered to either gold or silver or both. Gold and silver organizations were formed, and when the color line was used, it was qualified by either silver or gold.

### Negroes Survive

Probably the only race in the world that could possibly survive the deadly tropical existence encountered were the Negroes during the Panama construction. Many thousands of workers lost their lives during the terrible experiences, but the blacks seemed unhampered. They struggled through the swamps and dense jungles, which were a hell of pestilence and sudden death to the white man. It is painted as a land of walking, crawling and flying death—ferocious wild beasts, mammals, snakes, worms, and insects—a country where any white man was sure of swift destruction.

Heavy toll of lives was severe from the dangers of tropical diseases including malaria, rash dysentery, cholera morbus, with outbreaks of bubonic plague, sharp ones of smallpox, leprosy, and the harboring of intestinal parasites from hookworms to ameba

and various other terrifying epidemics. The Government spent millions of dollars for hospitals, quarantine and fumigation to master the living death in the zone, and unstinted praise due the thousands of Negroes who in spite of this panic stuck to their duties, while 6,830 lives were taken up to the opening of the canal.

# BUT THEY'RE BEING RESERVED FOR WEST INDIANS, IS CLAIM

Herman Brown Exposes True Conditions—Native Want U.S. to Set Up Restrictive Barriers.

By HERMAN A. BROWN  
(Staff Correspondent)

BALBOA, Canal Zone, Jan. 25.—Is there an American industrialist who can put his hands on 3,000 skilled and semi-skilled jobs and say to my brothers in the United States: "Come and get them, they are yours"? I doubt it.

When I left New York in October, nobody was working, including father. The prospects for winter were bleak and gloomy.

Here in the Canal Zone, still on United States territory, I have found jobs, 3,000 of them, more than that all paid for with good United States money dug up by American taxpayers.

## NEGRO AMERICANS COULD USE JOBS

When I ran across these jobs, my first reaction was that hungry, unemployed black men I have seen in Chicago, New York, Pittsburgh, Cleveland and many southern cities could use these jobs in the Canal Zone, jobs which bring good silver money.

But will they get any of these jobs which are at the disposal of their government?

They won't unless somebody on the mainland with sufficient power and authority acts to see that they do.

These jobs are being reserved for alien West Indians to be imported from Jamaica.

Most bitter in the protest to import Jamaicans for the jobs on the third set of locks for the Panama Canal have been native Panamanians. They have urged the President of Panama, Augusto S. Boyd, to make representation before the government of the United States to prevent the importation of these Jamaican workers.

## PROTEST PUBLISHED IN PANAMA CITY PAPER

The protest, published in the Star and Herald of Panama City, refers to published reports that these Jamaicans are to be imported and comments: "The surprise and discontent which this news provoked are general."

"The entire country," the protest continues, "is absolutely in disagreement with the measure contemplated."

Panama does not want more immigrants from British West Indian possessions. The Republic has already set up restrictive legislation against these unwelcome visitors. Panamanians do not like Jamaicans.

However, the point that has struck me has been the disposition of those who supervise work

## West Indians Face Loss of Panama Jobs

Army Sponsors  
Bill To Hire  
Only Citizens

WASHINGTON, D.C.—If a bill relating to the citizenship and compensation of employees on Army construction work in the Panama Canal Zone becomes law, about 12,000 West Indians will be thrown out of work.

The bill, favorably reported to the House from the committee on military affairs, provides that every contract entered into by the War Department for construction and installation of buildings, flying fields, and appurtenances in the zone shall provide that all personnel employed shall be American citizens.

It also provides that the compensation of such persons shall not be lower than the compensation paid for the same or

similar services to employees of the Panama Canal, as shall be predetermined by the Secretary of War.

In making improvements in the zone authorized by law, the War Department is beginning about \$50,000,000 worth of construction work.

During hearings on the national defense expansion bill a year ago a question arose as to the employment of American skilled labor and the payment on this work of the rates of wages authorized for new labor employed in the construction of the third set of locks for the Panama Canal.

PAID \$55 MONTHLY

There are 12,000 West Indians employed in the zone. Their average pay is \$55 a month. The average monthly pay for American labor is \$238.

Enactment of legislative authorization to employ only American skilled labor on Army construction work in the zone was requested by Secretary of War Harry H. Woodring.

There is no similar proposal to curtail the employment of aliens on army construction work in the continental United States, Puerto Rico, or Hawaii.

## HUGE THROG CROWD STREET FOR CEREMONY

Dream Of Thousands Of Islanders Fulfilled By Institution

KINGSTON JAMAICA, April 19—Fulfillment of Jamaica's dream was realized last week with the opening

of the immense Tuberculosis Sanatorium, the official ceremony being performed, in the presence of thousands representing all walks of life and drawn from all quarters of the island, by Lady Richards, wife of His Excellency the Governor, Sir Arthur Richards, K.C.M.G.

The institution, a structure of architectural beauty—a two story building, is fittingly dedicated, with the approval of the island's legis-

lature, to the Silver Jubilee of late Majesty King George V and Queen Mary.

Its approximate cost is \$400,000, \$250,000 of which the government furnished partly from loan and partly by the Colonial Development Fund. The other \$150,000 was publicly raised throughout the island through the Anti-Tuberculosis league, the first head of which was Lady Denham, wife of the late Sir Edward Denham, one time governor of the island who died here over a year ago.

The sanatorium is provided with a thoroughly up-to-date operating theatre, laboratory and X-ray rooms and is expertly equipped with the most modern devices for the cure, treatment and prevention of the dreadful disease—an efficient and expert staff with the popular Dr. Richard Corey as medical superintendent.

It is divided into two buildings—that for private patients with an accommodation of 22 single bedded rooms and that for the general non-paying public.

## Virgin Islands Philadelphia Governor Quits His Position

Phil. Pa. Say Boston Historian May Succeed Him As Islands' Leader

WASHINGTON, (ANP) — Interior department officials said Tuesday they expect Robert Morss Lovett, Boston novelist and historian and former professor of the University of Chicago, to become acting governor of the Virgin Islands soon, in view of Governor Lawrence W. Cramer's resignation. Cramer, a native of New Orleans and governor since 1935, announced at St. Thomas, V. I., Monday that he had resigned. Lovett became government secretary of the islands in 1939.

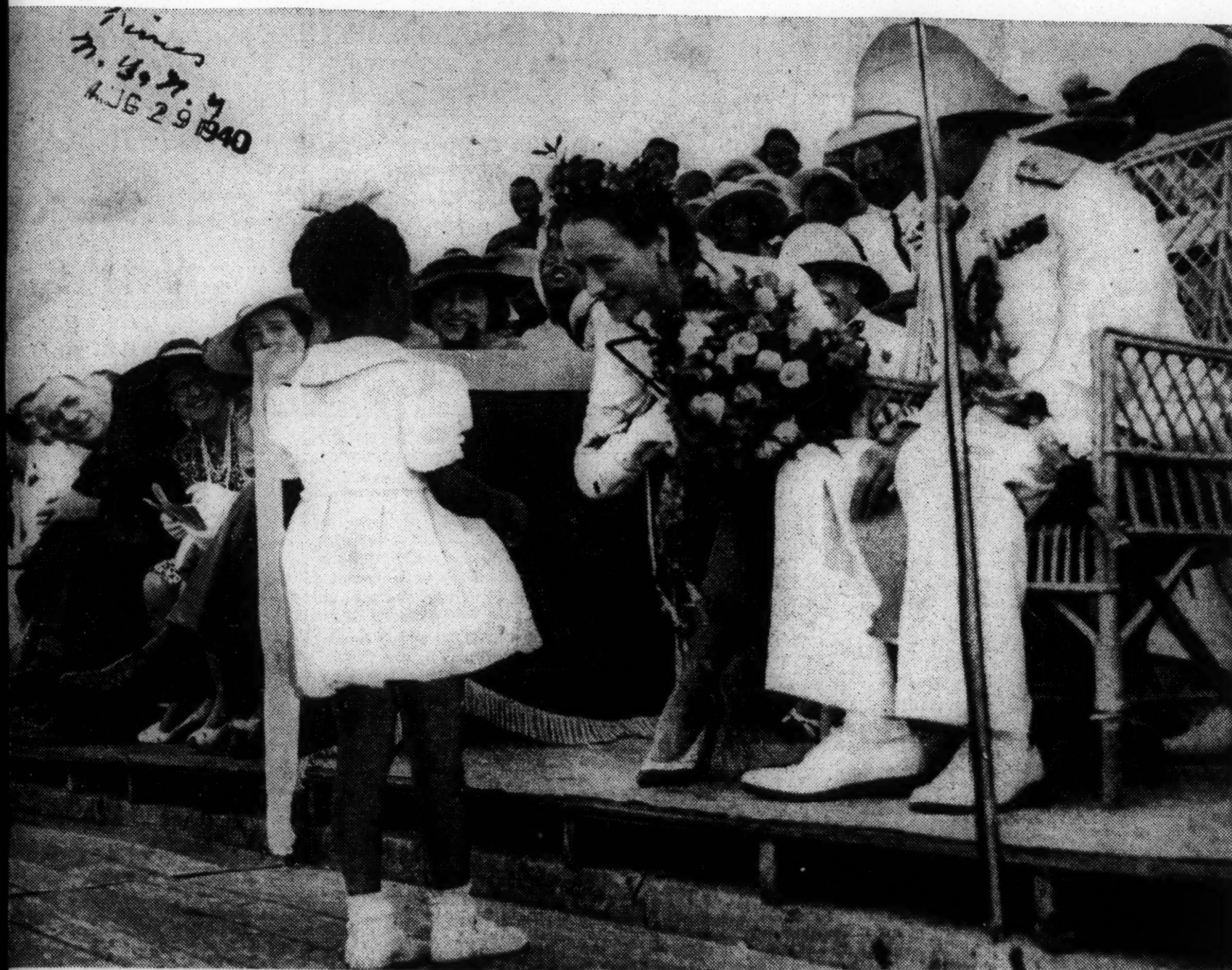
Previous to his resignation Cramer and his boss, Secretary of the Interior Ickes, were not on speaking terms. Ickes had actually barred Governor Cramer from the interior department except on official business.

The feud began when Ickes got reports of a breakdown in law and order in the Virgin Islands, and sent an investigator to look into the situation. But without waiting to learn very much about the investigation, Governor Cramer began firing hot letters to Ickes protesting that his personal life was being investigated.

Last year Governor Cramer rowed with Secretary Ickes over putting running water and other modern conveniences in a village for sugar workers. Ickes opposed the plan as impracticable. Later the governor came to Washington for conference with Ickes, and as he was about to leave, Ickes drawled: "Just one more thing, governor. You've sunk lower in my estimation—if that's possible."

The population of the Virgin Islands is almost entirely Negroid.

RACE PROBLEM - 1940  
WEST INDES



**AN HONOR FOR A DUCHESS FROM A YOUTHFUL CITIZEN OF THE BAHAMAS**

The Duchess of Windsor accepting a bouquet at a reception

Associated Press, passed by British censors

## S. C. Party Cruises Caribbean Regions Aboard May, a Ketch

BY D. HUGER BACOT

Allard B. (Dusty) Heyward, of 119 Broad street, is back in the city after a long cruise through Caribbean regions during much of last winter and spring.

Accompanied by Cornelius Pinckney, of Mount Pleasant, Mr. Heyward left Charleston in November for Miami on his ketch, the May which is fitted with a diesel engine. From Miami they sailed to Nassau, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and Samana, Dominican Republic.

Thence they sailed to San Juan, Puerto Rico, about March 20 and cleared for Miami April 5, arriving April 21. There the party was joined by Harry Gourdin Young and Peter Buyck, of St. Matthews. They went on a three-week cruise in the Bahamas and returned to Charleston June 23.

Mr. Heyward said that the trip was comparatively uneventful. They saw no foreign warships. The fishing was successful. They were caught in a hard blow off Palm Beach in the Gulf stream on the way back. This blew them on to Charleston.

They landed at Port-au-Prince but did not get to Cape Haitian or see the palace of Sans Souci, built by the black despot, Christophe.

The Caribbean sea is a stirring region to cruise through, with its memories of Columbus and the Spanish Conquistadores and of the English buccaneers who plundered the Spanish Main. There also Admiral Rodney destroyed the great French fleet of the Count de Grasse after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Va., in 1781, and thereby saved the British Empire from destruction when England itself was in danger of invasion from France and Spain.

Mr. Heyward was much impressed with the beauty of the West Indian islands. Cuba is especially lovely with its mountains and luxurious vegetation he said. Haiti, on the other hand, is bare and rugged, with mountains up to 10,000 feet. Puerto Rico is more hilly, but likewise beautiful. The scenery at Samana in the Dominican Republic is striking. The Carolinian saw United States patrol planes flying by every day.

In the Bahamas the whites are British subjects and intensely proud of it. A young fishing boat captain told Mr. Heyward that they would prefer to be taken over by the United States than by Germany, but were loyal to England.

The population is mostly negro, but in some of the Bahamas it is purely white, at Spanish Wells, for instance. There are few Spanish people in the British islands, but

many in the Dominican Republic. There are French in Haiti, where the negroes predominate as in the days of Toussaint L'Ouverture, who defied Napoleon Bonaparte. There also is some Indian blood in the Dominican Republic.

The Bahamans fish, the Haitians make rum and raise sugar cane and have some sugar mills. There is some mining in Haiti also. All through the West Indies the population is mixed. Voodooism is still practiced in Haiti, its mysterious rites going back to Africa. The other islanders are mostly Christian.

Mr. Heyward and his party did their own cooking, taking along enough provisions to last for two or three weeks at a time. They replenished their larder from time to time at different ports. Their supply of water was ample. The weather was mild and they some times slept under blankets at night.

### Cuban Constitution Bans Discrimination

HAVANA, Cuba (ANP)—Following five months of partisan fights and debates, discrimination has been outlawed in Cuba by the new constitution adopted by a Constituent Assembly here recently.

One of its main provisions guarantees that "every discrimination because of race, sex, color, class or any other thing harmful to human dignity is illegal and punishable."

## Inaugurate Batista Pres. Of Cuba; Ban Discrimination

HAVANA, Cuba — Second only in interest here and throughout Cuba to the inauguration of the popular president-elect, Col. Fulgencio Batista as head of the Island republic, is the adoption of the new constitution which not only extends the rights of the people, but aids them materially in the economic struggle for the necessities of life.

Adopted by a constituent assembly, after five months of bitter partisan fights and debates, a main provision of this new charter of Cuban liberty guarantees that:

### Discrimination Illegal

"Every discrimination because of race, sex, color, class or any other thing harmful to human dignity is illegal and punishable."

President Batista, who as a youth was a railroad worker, began his meteoric career, when, as a sergeant in Cuba's army, he led the revolt against President Carlos de Cespedes in 1933. As a result he became one of the nation's political bigwigs, and in turn became head of the Cuban army and island dictator. The presidency is Colonel Batista's first elective position.

### Built Schools

During his four years' service as army head he built more than 1,200 schools in rural and urban districts, has reduced thereby the country's high illiteracy percentage, and one of his first promises as president is that the school building program will be extended.

Cuba has 4,100,000 population, is a country rich in natural resources, its fertile soil capable of producing three crops a year, enough, according to estimates, to feed ten million people.

But foreign capitalists, eying big sugar profits, have made Cuba almost a one-crop nation. Of more than one billion dollars invested there by American interests, \$600,000,000 has been spent in the development of the sugar industry.

## An Expression of Tolerance for All

THE Duke and Duchess of Windsor, the former now serving as Governor of the Bahama Islands, recently displayed their democratic spirit by serving as principal patrons at an athletic meet. Between times of awarding trophies to the contestants, the Duke, the former King Edward of England, took time to congratulate the sponsors.

This was an unique experience in the lives of both, but Edward was impressed with the standard of competition set by the Bahamas. They in turn were thrilled by his interest and expression of goodwill in donating one of the trophies, which the Duchess personally presented.

Of course, the Bahamas are under British influence and as long as it was befitting his position, and a means of cementing relations with the people he governs, he carried out his obligations in regal style, well knowing that his acts would lend inspiration and incentive to participants in future events.

America could well pattern after the example set forth by His Royal Highness and the Duchess in giving credit where credit is due without spending so much time trying to discourage its minority by invoking hatred and prejudice where colored American youth seeks to display its ability in competitive events.

There are instances where our athletes are subjected to the most degrading forms of unsportsmanship because of their color. Sports events are naturally intended to bring out the best competitive spirit in races as well as individuals, but when this spirit is shaken through discriminatory methods, races as well as individuals suffer.

It was a commendable gesture even though all participants were colored. America doesn't need a Duke or Duchess to point it the way to a happy solution. but its constitu-

ents, the majority, certainly need to be awakened to the fact that the propagating of national serenity must of necessity come through tolerance and fair play.

No better field than sports can furnish fertile soil in which to grow productive plants and no time is better than now to begin the eradication of sectionalism and discrimination in athletics.

NEW YORK. — Citizen-ship rights will be granted all native-born Virgin Islanders residing in foreign countries at the time the three islands, St. Thomas, St. Jan and St. Croix, came into American ownership, according to a telegram from Senator James M. Mean to Ashley L. Totten, international secretary-treasurer of the Porters and president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Virgin Islands Civic Association.

According to Totten, the passage of the bill will permit entry into the United States and its possessions, 3,000 or more of those natives who were living in foreign countries at the time of the transfer to the United States.

## Clarifies Situation

Totten explains that the law passed February, 1927, declared all persons born in the islands and residing in the islands on or after March 17, 1917 at the time of the transfer, to be citizens of the United States, but it does not include all inhabitants of the United States, but it does not include all inhabitants of the islands who resided there at the time of the transfer, to be citizens of the United States; therefore those persons who were classified as inhabitants and who now reside

# Negro Elected Mayor Of Cuban City As Batista Ticket Sweeps The Island

Justas Salas, leading Negro Communist, was elected mayor of Santiago de Cuba, second most important city in Cuba. Three other Communist mayoralty candidates, Zanillo, another in Jamaica in the were also elected. One in Man province of Oriente and the third

# Welcome For Windsors In Bahama Isles

Among the representative native Bahamians who spoke favorably of the Duke's appointment were Etienne Dupuch, editor of the Nassau Daily Tribune and Thaddeus A. Foote, prominent attorney here.

**Fight  
Self Rule  
For Black  
Natives  
Demanded**

### Hit Sale of Peoples

Declaring that the people of the West Indies are "firmly and irrevocably opposed to any sale, transfer, modification, trusteeship or change of sovereignty," the Declaration of Rights adopted by the meeting, called for the "right of the Caribbean people to determine their own destiny and

The Emergency Committee was empowered to send a representative to the Pan-American Conference in Havana, Cuba, to present the Declaration of Rights of the Caribbean peoples. Other speakers at the meeting were Dr. Charles A. Petioni, president of the Caribbean Union; the Rev. Ethel Brown and Rev. E. Elliott Durant, Harlem, and Rev. Alcantara of Brooklyn.

This historic move is in line with the tragic events which will affect the future of the New World. If England successfully the powerful onslaught of the Hitler and Mussolini machines and counter-attacks, problems of peace or war in the Americas will not be as serious. Germany and Italy deliver the final blow in the impending war on Britain.

All efforts are being made to keep hands of Germany or Italy or any war out of the New World. Should other European power.

The move by West Indian lead-  
The might of Britain be destroyed,  
The West Indies would face the powers is an attempt to keep clear  
Under the changing old masters for new ones  
The United States The declaration expresses strong op-  
is committed to intervene to keep position to "the sale, transfer, forcible  
the colonies from falling into the seizure of, or establishment of

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the conflict will be. Each contending  
group seems to have an equal chance  
of defeat or victory. In the meantime,

trusteeship or mandate over those Caribbean areas," and affirms that "any such menace can best be removed only by the integration of the West Indian peoples into the Pan-American family of nations strictly on the basis of the right of self-determination."

Of course, a sweeping victory by Britain over the Nazi and Fascist powers would render the effectiveness of this plea of no avail. But it is a wise move to take time by the forelock and leave nothing to chance.

The American Negro is vitally interested in the future of the peoples on the West Indian and Caribbean colonies of England, France, the Netherlands and the United States. The Negro needs more opportunities for mastery in the science and art of government, and the only way that men may learn to govern themselves is to become self-governing. We learn to swim by swimming and not by writing, speaking, or hearing discourses about self-government.

We commend the members of our local West Indian population for the bold, significant and historic step that they have taken in an attempt to establish a new nation or commonwealth in the New World.

# Seminar Group Welcomed to Cuba



Mrs. Sue Bailey Thurman (center, holding flowers) and members of the first annual seminar of the Aframerican Women's Journal are being welcomed

to Cuba by Dr. Carlos Valdes, secretary of government, and various others as they arrived in Havana, Cuba., recently.

## Satchel Paige, Negro Star, to Face U. S. Champs In Semi-Pro World Series in Puerto Rico

Okla., Halliburton Cementers. Last year's was the first semi-pro World Series and the Puerto Rico outfit, which includes mostly Negro stars, showed that the Jim Crow rule in the big leagues is depriving fans of seeing some of the classiest baseball players in America. This year behind the remarkable pitching of Satchel Paige, the Guayamas won the right to play in the semi-pro World Series by sweeping through all opposition in the Puerto Rico eight-team major league. The saga of the Negro hurler, whose achievements include fanning of the best players in the American majors, is the tragic tale of Jim Crow.



SATCHEL PAIGE Paige is acknowledged by dozens of big league stars to belong in O. B.'s ball parks. On the Pacific Coast during training sea-

sons he trimmed ranking hurlers with little effort. The Negro star, now 34, started playing in the early 20's coming from New Mexico to the crack Pittsburgh Crawfords of the Negro National League. While he would like to play ball in the U. S., he quit a few seasons back to go down to the West Indies for play in Cuba and Puerto Rico, where the racial bias code is not enforced and where he can make much more money than in the limited Negro leagues in the U. S.

RACE PROBLEM - 1940  
WEST INDIES

# West Indies Bases Viewed As Great Aid To Negro Workers \$60,000,000 Will Be Spent By U.S.

DEC 15 1940

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—When President Roosevelt swapped 50 old American destroyers to Great Britain for naval, air and land bases some two and a half months ago, there was no definite site named for the construction of any of these bases. But now that the whole thing has been discussed and thrashed out, it has been revealed that seven of the eight sites have been agreed upon, the only exception being that in Trinidad.

In completing the chain defense bases, some of \$60,000,000 will be spent. Several changes had to be made in the establishing of the bases before general accord was reached in the two governmental agencies.

Chief of these was in Bermuda where the conflict between the naval or military base would conflict with the tourist trade from the U. S. on which Bermuda thrives and prospers.

It was at first thought best to build the base in the truckly settled Hamilton section of Bermuda but when it was pointed out that this would interfere greatly with the tourist trade, the U. S. graciously accepted another spot on less populous St. George's at the north end of the island.

In spending the \$60,000,000 in the West Indies, the economic situation among the thousands of blacks who live in the islands and are skilled artisans and workers will be enhanced.

Regarded previously as Britain's poorest colonies, and ever a source of constant concern to the crown,

the Islands have presented problems in economics, worse than our own problems in the Virgin Islands, it is reported.

Hundreds of West Indian Negroes seeking new life have come to the United States and when discussing economic conditions in their native land, often tell of the difficulties encountered.

Thus the building of these bases on the Islands should prove not only protection for the Islands and the United States, but the economic salvation of a downtrodden group of people, trained in trades and professions, but without the opportunity to develop them.

DEC 21 1940  
MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — The Duke of Windsor, who, as King Edward of England, abdicated his throne for a twice-married American sweetheart, "the woman I love" and who is now serving as governor-general of the Bahamas, is somewhat surprised at the extent of segregation between whites and Negroes in the South, and particularly in Civilian Conservation Camps.

Here in Miami for a few days while awaiting the complete recovery of the Duchess, the former Wallis Simpson of Baltimore, who came here a week ago to undergo an operation for an infected molar, the Duke revealed his immediate interest when a reporter brought up the subject of CCC activities. The interview disclosed that the idea may soon be borrowed for the Bahamas.

## OFFICIAL RETICENT

"I have been reading quite a bit of literature on the topic," said the Duke, "and I hope I shall have the opportunity of visiting some of the activities while here."

Seemingly as an afterthought, the Duke asked if there were Negroes in all camps and was obviously taken aback when informed that Negro CCC activities were segregated. A Miami city official, who had previously offered to escort the royal visitor to a CCC camp at South Miami, explained that "such segregation is customary in the South," but when the Duke pressed him for details he grew reticent.

"Well, said the Duke, "those are the ones I want to see. If we had them, they would only concern the colored people."

## U. S. AND THE WEST INDIES

DEC 21 1940

United States officials have completed their inspection tour of the West Indian naval and air bases which were recently leased to America by the British government in exchange for fifty over-age destroyers.

The American experts have chosen sites in Bermuda, Bahamas, Jamaica, Antigua, St. Lucia, Trinidad, and British Guiana which is on the mainland of South America.

Native opinion as reflected in the West Indian press, shows alarm over the coming of the Yankees. This is due to the bad reputation which America has in her treatment of American Negroes. Many of the native publications are even referring to the behavior of U. S. Marines in Haiti and Nicaragua where the colored people were badly treated by the army of occupation.

The West Indies National Council has addressed a petition to the British Colonial office asking that the following regulations be made to safeguard the rights of the native population:

1. Americans on the island but outside the leased area be subject to local laws.
2. That they be not allowed to carry firearms in the unleased territory.
3. That local labor be used on the bases, unless of a technical sort not obtainable locally.
4. That under no circumstances must

the Americans be invited by the local government to intervene in local labor or political disputes.

5. That there shall be no color-bar or other forms of discrimination on the ground of race or color as practiced on the Panama Canal Zone where West Indians who helped to construct the naval fortifications there are now segregated and penalized economically, socially and politically on the ground of color.

These are wise measures. Unless they become an accepted code by local authorities, the arrows of race prejudice with its attendant poisoning of the social organism are likely to find their

## A NEGRO GOVERNOR

DEC 14 1940

With the resignation of Lawrence W. Cramer as Governor of the Virgin Islands, why should not a capable Negro citizen be appointed to that post? There are literally hundreds of colored Americans capable of filling it.

The population of the Virgin Islands is 85,120, of whom at least 84,000 are colored.

If it is proper for a white man to govern 84,000 Negroes, it is certainly proper for a colored man to govern 1,120 whites.

Dean William H. Hastie of the Howard University Law School, has served as Federal judge in the Virgin Islands, a post now held by another able Negro lawyer, Herman Moore of Chicago. So the islands are used to Negro officials.

The Roosevelt Administration could go a long way toward reviving the faith of colored citizens in its programs and pronouncements by appointing a capable colored man to this post.

It is doubtful that even such professional Negrophobes as "The Man" Bilbo, Pat Harrison and Tom Connally would object to a colored man having this post, although a squawk might be anticipated from the naval officers stationed at St. Thomas.

## Ask Negro Governor For Virgin Islands

DEC 20 1940

WASHINGTON—(ANP) — The United Government Employees at the biennial convention last week passed a resolution calling upon President Roosevelt, to appoint a Negro as governor of the Virgin Islands, to succeed Gov. Lawrence Cramer, resigned, and a committee was appointed to go to the White House with this appeal on Monday.

Dr. J. E. Walker, president of the Universal Life Insurance company of Memphis and president of the National Negro Business league, who is a graduate of Meharry Medical college and was the southern manager among Negroes of the recent campaign for the reelection of President Roosevelt, has been recommended and endorsed by the U. G. E. convention and the National Negro council jointly to President for the position along with Bishop R. R. Wright, Jr., of the AME church, and director of the Western headquarters among Negroes in Chicago for the reelection of President Roosevelt. Bishop Wright is a

graduate of the University of Chicago where his major was business administration. Bishop Wright was awarded the Ph.D. degree in religious education and philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania. He resides at Wilberforce university, where he was formerly president.

# Sweep Last Obstacle From Batista's Path To Cuban Republic Presidency

*Chicago, Ill.*

OCT 12 1940

HAVANA, Cuba.—The last obstacle standing between Col. Fulgencio Batista and the presidency was swept away this week when the Supreme court revoked its week-old decision admitting the validity of 2,000 appeals filed by defeated candidates following the election July 14.

By rejecting the appeals, the court made possible Batista's inauguration as president on October 10. It was the first time in the history of the court that it has changed its mind, and as a result political, business and social circles were shocked.

## To Take Office

The odds were 50 to 1 last week that Batista would not take office next Thursday because all the appeals could not be heard by the court before that time. Now the last opposition hope of preventing Batista from taking office has faded.

President Bru signed a decree appropriating \$50,000 to be spent throughout the island in three days of festivities celebrating Batista's inauguration. Twenty Pan-American republics, including the United States, and several European countries will send special diplomatic missions to the inauguration, President Bru said.

# NEGRO IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CUBA

By WILLIAM PICKEN for ANP

*Negro Labor News*

Executive" of one of our "Sister Re-  
public," what a laugh it will be on  
our idiotic American race prejudice

8-10-40  
Batista, who has just been elected president of Cuba, is a Negro. If he had been born in South Carolina, he would never have been permitted to get education enough to become an army sergeant and shoot and bully his way into a dictatorship of Cuba, as he did a few years ago. Now he has got out of the dictator class and comes up into a more respectable status as elected chief executive of his native land.

*Houston*  
What difference does it make? We would not even mention it if it were not the idiotic attitude of Americans toward their fellow-citizens of Negro blood. We see in the papers a picture of Hull of Tennessee, in close tete-a-tete with Fulgencio Batista, at a dinner in Havana. What of that, too? Why, it shows up the hypocrisy and uncivilization of these southerners in their own country. In Cuba it is all right; a Negro is chief of the army or is president of the government, and therefore, for all practical purposes, a Negro is not a Negro any longer. Georgia girls go to Cuba, as "queens of cotton" or something like that, and of course they have to be entertained by the secretary of the interior in Cuba, who may be a dark brown Negro, and they cover it up by the fiction that he is a "Cuban," as if "Cuban" were the name of a race instead of simply a national word. In the same sense, a black man of Mississippi is a Mississippian, and any Negro of America is simply an "American".

Maceo the Great, the George Washington of Cuba, who battled for its independence, was also a Negro, more Negroid than half the Negroes of the United States, and far more Negro in blood than is even Batista. Maceo's old black mother gave all her sons to the cause of freedom for Cuba. The Cubans have built great monuments to this Mother and this Son.

A few years ago, when Batista first became a dictator and seized power, and killed a few opponents, our American newspapers mentioned the interesting fact that he was a Cuban Negro, because then they expected him to fail soon, and that would be a "Negro failure." But as his dictatorship stuck, they gradually lost track of their anthropology and forgot his origin, and now that he has become president of Cuba by election of its people, we expect them to forget that he is a Negro permanently in America, and never, never, never mention it again.

Batista visited us a little while ago, while he was army head and dictator. That was funny enough. But if he comes again now, while he is "Chief

## Haiti Should Go to Work

President Stenio Vincent of Haiti was in Washington recently to wangle a \$5,000,000 loan out of President Roosevelt for public works in Haiti.

One of the great puzzles is why Haiti is always broke and borrowing while the other half of the island, the Dominican Republic, seems to be doing a flourishing business.

Haiti is an island where nobody ever starves to death. Coffee and sugar cane grow wild, mangoes fill the trees, coconuts provide milk for the thirsty, bananas grow everywhere. Pineapples are cultivated in abundance.

One good cotton mill could clothe the whole island; and if the ruling class will go to work, ban importations of French champagne, European clothes and luxuries, there is enough labor in the country, intelligently directed, to do all the public works the country needs without borrowing a penny.

## Roosevelt Names New White Envoy to Haiti

DEC 7 1940  
WASHINGTON.

President Roosevelt has appointed a new white minister to Haiti to succeed the white man who resigned as soon as he had heard the President was re-elected for a third term.

The new man is John Campbell, white. The President has also appointed two white Southerners to diplomatic posts in colored Martinique and French Guiana.

## At French Circle Reception



Mme. *Marian* Evanti, center, noted coloratura soprano, who was hostess at a reception in honor of the French Circle at her home, 1910 Vermont Avenue, Northwest, recently. On the right is Haitian Minister Elie Lescot, and on the left is Col. Gustave Larat, chief of the Northern Department of Haiti.

# Haitian To Be Guest Professor At Atlanta Black Republic Just Now Learning Of Brothers

ATLANTA, Ga., Jan. 26—According to an announcement from the office of President Rufus E. Clement of Atlanta University, M. Dantes Bellegarde, former Haitian minister to France and part-time minister to the United States, will join the faculty of the university system as guest professor of French for the second semester of the present academic year.

M. Bellegarde is no stranger to Atlanta University. He made a special trip from Haiti to Atlanta in May, 1937, to give a series of lectures at this institution.

In addition to representing Haiti in France and in the United States, he was his nation's special envoy to the League of Nations. It was his brilliant speech before the Assembly of the League that brought to the attention of the world the brutal treatment of South African natives by the government of the Union of South Africa.

M. Bellegarde served as professor of French language and literature and also as professor of law at the Lycée Petion, Port-au-Prince, and has held the position of minister of education in Haiti. He is the author of many authoritative books on various phases of Haitian life.

In 1936, M. Bellegarde lectured at the University of Puerto Rico under the auspices of the Ibero-American Institute. His lectures, which were later published, had as their general subject, "Haiti and Her Problems."

At the present time M. Bellegarde is director of the Ecole Normale d'Instituteurs at Port-au-Prince (Haiti).

By ROBERT M. RATCLIFFE

Dantes Bellegarde, tall, 62-year-old educator and diplomat of Haiti, is without a doubt one of the most distinguished colored men Atlanta has ever had in her midst.

The prominent Haitian is guest professor of Atlanta University where he is affiliated with the French department of which Dr. Mercer Cook is chairman.

"An international spokesman of black folk... a great man", wrote Dr. W. E. B. DuBois of Prof. Bellegarde in the April, 1926, Crisis.

Few men, colored or white, can boast of a similar record. Dantes Bellegarde served as Haitian Minister to the United States from 1931 to 1933, after having performed the duties of a Minister to Paris and Delegate to the League of Nations on two occasions.

## DELEGATE TO LEAGUE

He was Haitian Minister to Paris and Delegate to the League during the years of 1921 to 1923 and from 1930 to 1931.

He is the father of seven children. One of his sons, Dr. Auguste Bellegarde, is a member of the Langston University faculty.

Although living in the United States for several months, the noted Haitian continues to carry on his work in his own land. He contributes to a Haitian newspaper and is the director of the Normal School there.

Probably his most outstanding contribution to civilization now is his system of "creating racial solidarity between the American Negro and the Haitians."

## BEGIN TO LEARN

Prof. Bellegarde explained that the Haitians are just beginning to learn of the American Negro while the American colored man is just

beginning to learn of the Haitians. The successful educator is the author of several widely circulated books, his latest two volumes being "The Haitian Resistance to American Occupation", and "Haitian Nation".

A member of the International Bureau of Peace, Dantes Bellegarde is the only Negro in the world who aids in the selection of a worthy person for the Nobel Peace Award. The professor said he cast his vote this year for President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

He is a member of the governing board of the Pan-American Union and represented the "Black Republic" at the Eighth Pan-American Conference held recently in Lima. Following the conference, Prof. Bellegarde was paid a high tribute by Cordell Hull.

One award of which he is especially proud is the title of "Commander of the French Legion of Honor" which was bestowed upon him by the French in 1922 for his splendid services. He received the honor while serving as Minister to Paris.

## FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM

Prof. Bellegarde added more recognition to his name when he helped Haiti to regain her freedom several years ago after the United States stationed Marines there. He carried his fight to the League of Nations and to Washington. The NAACP and other prominent organizations aided in this fight. This prominent son of Haiti is a member of the Executive Coun-

sel of the American Institute of International Law; was head of the Haitian cabinet in 1914 under President Michel-Oreste, and at one time was Chief of Service in the National Bank of Haiti, and is president of the Franco-American Committee in Haiti and also of the Haitian-Canadian Association.

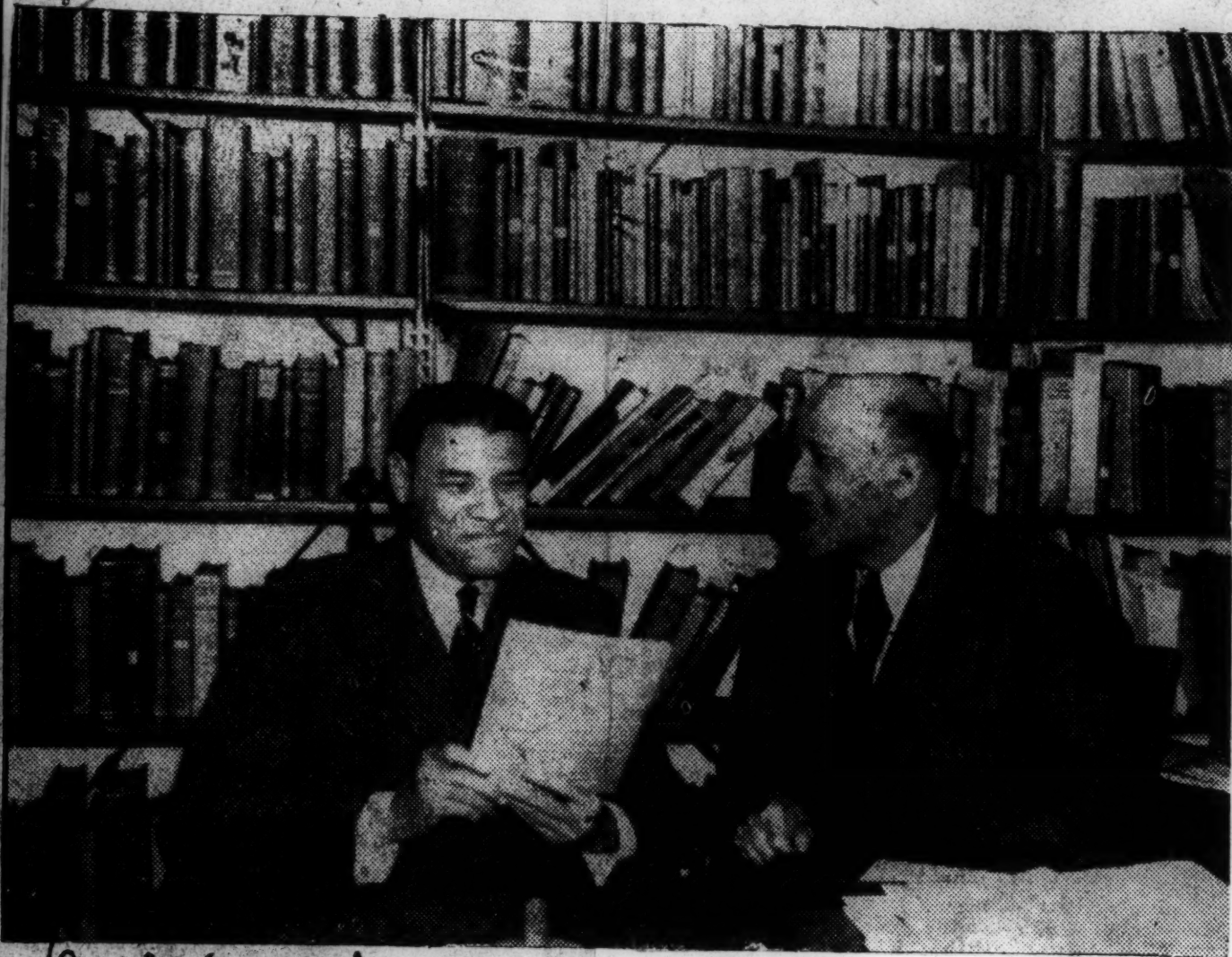
He speaks French fluently and comes from a land where more than 2,000,000 Negroes speak the French tongue.

Prof. Bellegarde lectured at Atlanta University during the spring of 1937 and at that time was very much impressed with the A. U. setup. Since then he has delivered a series of lectures at the Universities of Montreal and Ottawa and several other centers of education.

Atlanta University is the first institution where the Haitian has been contracted for a whole semester.

He explained during an interview that the American Negro and Haitian people are gradually getting closer together. He said that some American students are now visiting the Republic and that coffee raised there is distributed here by Negroes.

## Two Staunch Fighters For The Race



*Only covered*  
This striking pose of Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, right, and Prof. Daniel Bellegarde, noted Haitian diplomat who is now visiting professor at Atlanta University, was taken at the DuBois study. Both men are prominent in their own right, each having authored several successful books and waged valiant fights for the people of their race. Prof. Bellegarde is a former Haitian Minister to the United States. He served on two occasions as Haitian Minister to Paris and as delegate to the League of Nations. —(SNS PHOTO BY RATCLIFFE).

## Haiti's Beauty and Strange Spirit Put into SCULPTURE

By VIRGINIA SIMS

DAYTON, Ohio—A recent exhibit of the Dayton Art Institute of Lu Duble's sculpture as inspired by strange Haitian customs, has attracted much attention.

*Open time*  
The last described by some as "hot and black," which has had a black king and has a black president, fascinated the famous British-American sculptor, twice winner of a Guggenheim Fellowship, and gave her the thrilling opportunity of observing the voodoo cult practiced.

*Open time*  
"There is something strange that belongs only to Haiti," Mrs. Duble said in a recent lecture at the Dayton Art Institute describing her first reactions to the island where she spent three months resting several years ago.

"There is something wild, exciting, deeply sincere about the natives." She was won by their friendliness.

The marines told Mrs. Duble something of the native rituals and customs and traditions, and one of them served as a companion on explorations into forbidden sanctuaries of the jungle.

Her curiosity had been piqued when on three successive occasions, breakfast was delayed indefinitely, and she found upon investigation that the house had been deserted.

A visit to the little clearings in the jungle, where ceremonies are conducted, is a visit to the world of spirits. They are meeting places of the dead, presided over by the god and goddess of the dead.

The percussion instruments — voodoo drums, the flickering lights of oiled wood create a weird atmosphere that even when heard recounted makes one feel as though he were in another world. Here is the response of a people to a fundamental, religious urge.

### Bird Sacrificed

A most startling episode described by Mrs. Duble was a bird

sacrifice. Unexpectedly, she and her companion heard what seemed like the blowing or whistling wind. They listened more intently and recognized low voices which gradually became louder and shriller, suddenly stopped and began again. A small light first covered, then uncovered, revealed a group of women and later in the ceremony, the sprinkling of blood over the assembly.

The ideas regarding the dead are interesting and amazing. At the funeral, everything is done to make the dead one feel that he goes happily to death. His friends accompany him to his grave in lively mood, singing and dancing.

Zombies are galvanized to life by black magic. Stories of such cases as the following are current—a girl stricken in the street and buried returns to life after twelve years and is recognized by relatives.

Human sacrifice no longer exists, but a legend runs that if a black and white couple marry and sacrifice their child, the black race steps forward toward greatness.

## RACE PROBLEM- 1940 WEST INDIES

# Virgin Islands Play a Leading Role in Drama

By Frederic Babcock.

New arrivals on the Virgin Islands soon hear of the famous American who ever lived there—Alexander Hamilton. The first secretary of the treasury was born elsewhere in the West Indies, but he and his mother went there when he was a boy, and he was only 12 years of age when he left school to be apprenticed to a St. Croix merchant. His mother lies buried there.

But for every American who wishes to view scenes associated with Hamilton's boyhood there are perhaps a dozen who want to be shown the places where Capt. Edward Teach, the pirate, sailed his ships and—maybe—hid his gold.

Blackbeard castle is said to have been Teach's abode. The terror of the Caribbean in the eighteenth century probably knew and often visited the obscure harbors of these islands, but, if so, Blackbeard has nothing left to prove it.

Bluebeard castle, also with its pirate legends, likewise has little left to recall the fact that it once housed the ruffian for whom it was named. It started out as a Dutch windmill, became a buccaneer hangout, and ended up as the nucleus of a government owned hotel.

As every schoolboy knows — or should know—by this time, the Virgin group is no longer Danish, but part of the United States. What many Americans do not realize is that the federal government's current plans of fortification will make St. Thomas, one of the isles, the "Gibraltar" to the entrance waters of the Panama canal. The projecting peninsulas and inclosing ridges are capable of being made almost as impregnable as is the huge rock guarding the entrance to the Mediterranean. So the future may see this cluster of islands playing an important part in the destiny of this country.

Neither does the average tourist now that the group was named, not

in honor of the Virgin Queen Elizabeth [as the state of Virginia was], but for the legendary British St. Ursula, who, with 11,000 companions, was martyred at Cologne. The naming was done by Christopher Columbus.

Travelers agree that the cluster has the wildness of the South Sea isles, the beauty of the Riviera, and the languor of the tropics. If the mention of the tropics recalls insects and fevers, the Virgins can prove that it is possible to do away with the mosquitoes and malaria. The South Sea places have as many sandy beaches and tropical gardens, but they can't match the Virgins' red tiled roofs and splendid stone houses. The American possession has waving palm fronds almost to the water's edge, and mountains high enough to enable any one to get away from the daytime heat. It combines memories of pirate days with views as fine as Hilton's boyhood there are perhaps to be found in the Caribbean. It is a year round vacationland.

## HELPING THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Just why a sand-filled harbor should be selected as a base for submarine boats baffles the lay mind. Dredging will be a constant and costly necessity at Charlotte Amalie, where large ships must anchor in the roadstead two miles out and small ones venture into port with caution. To undersea craft in particular, shifting sands must be dangerous. All this the Navy Department knows, certainly, and in announcing the allocation of \$298,000 for work there reminds the taxpayer it is "only a modest beginning." Whether it is a wise one remains to be seen.

In the island of St. Thomas, of course, the promise of navy work at Government rates of pay is welcomed.

After some false starts, here is substantial and continuing help at a time when unemployment is widespread. St. Thomas, however, is only one of our three Virgin Islands. The navy proposes no work in St. John or St. Croix, although St. Croix can offer a sand-filled harbor too. In these two islands the problem is agricultural. St. John raises nothing, St. Croix raises sugar. Neither crop offers money. It would be a mistake, then, complacently to view the navy's appropriation as solving the problem of our Virgin Islands. That problem was inherited, but it is not to our credit that after twenty-three years of ownership it remains.

## VIRGIN ISLANDS

# Censures Congress for Virgin Islanders' Plight Win Citizenship

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Congress can help the Virgin Islands to help themselves by revamping the organic act providing a civil government for them, Representative Fred L. Crawford, (Rep. Mich.) declared last week while the House considered the Interior Department appropriation bill for 1941.

Part of the blame for economic and social conditions in the Virgin Islands, he said, rests on members of Congress. At the same time, Mr. Crawford criticized Gov. Lawrence W. Cramer for spending so much time in Washington. He said he was informed Gov. Cramer spends most of his time out of the islands and the greater part of it here.

He stated that if he had access to the governor he would attempt to get detailed information with respect to what has happened in connection with the rehabilitation program into which the government poured a lot of money but out of which the people in the Virgin Islands got little relief.

On the one hand, he observed, the government pours money into the islands and, on the other it imposes wage-and-hour restrictions, export taxes, and other barriers to their economic and social progress, which make them more unable to help themselves.

The House passed the 1941 Interior Department supply bill carrying a total of \$265,150 for the government of the Virgin Islands, an increase of \$34,900 over the appropriation for the current fiscal year.

This increase is due chiefly to an increase of \$25,000 for defraying the deficit of the municipal government of St. Croix. For the current fiscal year there was appropriated the sum of \$50,000 for this purpose.

The sum of \$41,500 is provided for salaries and expenses of the agricultural experiment station and the vocational school in the islands; \$15,000 for defraying the deficit of the municipal government of St. Thomas and St. John, and \$75,000 for defraying the deficit of the municipal government of St. Croix.

NEW YORK. — A telegram from Senator James M. Mead sent to Ashley L. Totten, international secretary-treasurer of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and president of the Virgin Islands Civic association, states that the senate passed Bill S-3582 on Saturday, granting citizenship in the United States to all native-born Virgin Islanders residing in foreign countries at the time the three islands, St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix came into American ownership.

According to Totten, the passage of the bill will permit entry into the United States and its possessions, 3,000 or more of those natives who were living in foreign countries at the time of the transfer to the United States.

The citizenship status of the natives of the American Virgin Islands has suffered so many changes that it is difficult for the natives to thoroughly understand it, and as a result some misguided persons residing in New York are voting at the polls and consider themselves citizens when in reality, they are aliens, states Totten.

# West Indies Bases To Aid Negro Economically; U. S. To Spend Over \$60,000,000 Has Been Regarded As Britain's Poorest Colonies; In Worse Condition Than The Virgin Islands

## Seven of 8 Sites Have Been Selected

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WASHINGTON.—(ANP)—When President Roosevelt swapped 50 old American destroyers to Great Britain for naval, air and land bases some two and a half months ago, there was no definite site named for the construction of any of these bases. But now that the whole thing has been discussed and thrashed out, it has been revealed that seven of the eight sites have been agreed upon, the only exception being that in Trinidad.

In completing the chain of defense bases, some \$60,000,000 will be spent. Several changes had to be made in the establishing of the bases before general accord was reached in the two governmental agencies.

Chief of these was in Bermuda where the conflict between the naval or military base would conflict with the tourist trade from the U. S. on which Bermuda thrives and prospers.

It was at first thought best to build the base in the thickly settled Hamilton section of Bermuda, when when it was pointed out

that this would interfere greatly with the tourist trade, the U. S. graciously accepted another spot on less populous St. George's at the north end of the island.

In spending the \$60,000,000 in the West Indies, the economic situation among the thousands of blacks who live in the islands and are skilled artisans and workers will be enhanced.

Regarded previously as Britain's poorest colonies, and ever a source of constant concern to the crown, the islands have presented problems in economics, worse than our own problems in the Virgin Islands, it is reported.

## Appeal Sent To President Roosevelt

Bishop Wright,  
Walker Suggested

For Position

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WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—The United Government Employees at the biennial convention with more than 1,200 delegates present at the Shiloh Baptist Church recently passed a resolution calling upon President Roosevelt, to appoint a Negro as governor of the Virgin Islands, to succeed Gov. Lawrence Cramer, resigned, and a committee was appointed to go to the White House with this appeal.

Dr. J. E. Walker, president of the Universal Life Insurance Company of Memphis and president of the National Negro Business League, who is a graduate of Meharry Medical College and was the southern manager among Negroes of the recent campaign for the reelection of President Roosevelt, has been recommended and endorsed by the UGE convention and the National Negro Council jointly to President for the position along with Bishop R. R. Wright, Jr., of the AME Church, and director of the Western headquarters among Negroes in Chicago for the reelection of President Roosevelt.

Bishop Wright is a graduate of the University of Chicago where his major was business admini-

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## SOCIAL WORKER HEADS TORONTO WELFARE BODY

### Begins Survey Of Negroes' Needs

DEC 22 1940

TORONTO, Canada, Dec. 19.—(ANP)—Survey of the needs of Negroes in Toronto is to begin at once by the Toronto welfare council, at the request of Mrs. V. Carter, newly appointed director of the home service association, a welfare agency ministering to the Negro population of the city.

According to Mrs. Carter, refusal of the majority of Toronto employers to give work to Negroes is causing much hardship.

"The majority of Negro boys and men, it is true, are unskilled, but there are many fields in which they could give excellent service, if only given a chance," she said.

The new director of the Home Service association is a graduate of the New York School of Social Work, and has had 12 years' experience in Negro family welfare. She organized the first day nursery for Negro children in Jacksonville, Fla., and also established a Negro community house in Queens, both of which are still in active operation.

In Toronto, Negroes suffer from the same ills as Negroes do in sections of the United States. They are as usual the last hired and the first fired, they are denied employment opportunities to a marked degree, depending for their livelihood on railroad work, a few scattered highly skilled jobs and limited opportunities in the unskilled fields.

Since the war, emphasis is being placed by the agency on the employment of Negroes in war industries since many families carried by white agencies have become independent due to income derived from these sources. With particular attention on employment, there is the surety that

general standards of living for the Negro community in Toronto will reach a new high.

## THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes suggested at a dinner sponsored by the Nation and the New Republic at the Hotel Astor, N. Y., last week, that the Virgin Islands be made available to political refugees, "without visas and without diplomatic formality."

The use of these islands as a sanctuary for the persecuted minorities of Europe would be a humanitarian gesture quite in keeping with the tenets of democracy and in line with the historic traditions of this country.

Three hundred and twenty years ago, the Pilgrim Fathers landed in the New World in search of religious freedom. They came to our shores in order to escape a relentless wave of persecution which had been unleashed against them in their own homeland. Though the persecution to which they were subjected was of a different origin, the end result was the same. Indeed, there is but an academic distinction between religious persecution and political persecution. Both spring from narrow intellectual outlook, from intolerance and unchecked power.

The men and women who make up this country of ours represent for the most part a composite of various races of people that came here either in quest of economic opportunity or political freedom or both. The Negro was the

only one to be brought here against his will. As a slave he suffered bitter suppression of all rights. The hope of American democracy lies in the love of all of those minority groups for individual freedom. For, out of their experience, out of oppression and servitude, they have learned the true meaning of liberty.

Mr. Ickes' suggestion is, therefore, a piece of the general pattern of our democracy. The Virgin Islands, which were purchased in 1917 by the United States for \$25,000,000, are a group of over 50 islands with a total area of 133 square miles. Only three of those islands are populated, they are St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John. The agricultural and economic possibility of the remaining 47 islands has never been explored. This, of course, is a long-term planning which would not meet the urgent need of the moment.

Intellectual achievement who are now in mingle and mix with the natives; that danger of the thing squad. With a subtropical climate and no extremes of temperature, with an abundance of tropical fruits, fimes, cotton, and segregation. Persecuted have some bay leaves, sugar and molasses; with time become persecutors. In order not to disturb the peace and more cattle, goats, sheep, and hogs than the Virgin Islands are an ideal spot for islands, definite and positive safeguards the physical rehabilitation and the should form the basic conditions for ad-spiritual regeneration of those who mission of European refugees. have escaped the iron heels of Fascism. However, it should be made clear to the refugees that they must not introduce social proscription by refusing to

The Ickes proposal calls for the immediate establishment of 5,000 men and women to be distributed among the native population of the three principal islands. Such a plan, according to the Secretary of the Interior, would not be a burden because an economic benefit would flow from the visitors, who would have a guaranteed income to provide for their wants. Instead, the scheme would mean economic improvement for the United States at the same time assuring life and liberty to men and women of in-

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mingling and mix with the natives; that they must accept the social pattern of a community that is not contaminated with Nordic arrogance, race prejudice and segregation. Persecuted have sometimes become persecutors.

In order not to disturb the peace and happiness of the inhabitants of those islands, definite and positive safeguards should form the basic conditions for admission of European refugees.

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